

"ONE OF THE FINEST COUNTRIES UPON WHICH THE SUN SHINES"; "THE SUB-ALPINE REGION OF ASIA'S ITALY", "A DREAM OF LOVELINESS", "UNSURPASSED FOR ITS SCENERY", "RENOWNED FOR ITS MAGNIFICENT CLIMATE AND DELIGHTFUL FRUITS."

NEW GUIDE TO KASHMIR

—WITH—

ITS HISTORY, LAKES, PLACES OF INTEREST; DIRECTIONS
FOR ROUTES, WALKS, AND AN INEXHAUSTIVE
INFORMATION (IN ALL ITS PHASES) FOR
THE GUIDANCE OF VISITORS TO THE
HAPPY VALLEY OF KASHMIR.

—AND—

TEN ILLUSTRATIONS
AND
THREE GUIDE MAPS

BY

R. C. ARORA, B. Sc. (Agri)

FIRST EDITION

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1933

PREFACE

For several years there has been a demand for a cheap, practical, useful and condensed book on Guide to Kashmir and—here it is. It is the result of an experience of an all India tour.

There are now many books on this line but I dare say that 90 per cent of them are written by men who have no practical experience on this line. They are large and wordy.

As you will see, by a glance through the pages of this book, you will be acquainted with all the information regarding Kashmir.

Important routes, approximate Expenses, Murree information, three Guide-maps and all the important, useful and latest Hints that may be of any use to the visitors of that place have been dealt with in this book.

So this little book is sent out in the hope that it will help my tourist and visitor friends on their way to Kashmir and any useful suggestions made by them will be highly appreciated.

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R. C. Arora B. Sc. (Agri)

MAHARANA BHUPAL
COLLEGE,
UDAIPUR.

Class No.....

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NEW GUIDE TO KASHMIR

ORIGIN OF KASHMIR

A SHEET OF WATER

Kashmir valley was once covered by the waters of a mighty lake where there was no human habitation but some demons, as regarded by people, used to live whom a saint, Kashyap after whose name Kashmir is being called, which means the "place of Kashyap", defeated them and conquered this country. Later on, he as a great engineer of the time widened the mouth of the outlet of the water—the water of the River Jhelum—near Baramulla, a motor station on Rawalpindi-Srinagar route, after cutting the rocks on both sides of the river. This fact as well as a large number of streams, fountains, rivers, and lakes found throughout the whole of the valley testify that Kashmir might be once a sheet of water. Be it a legend, a story, an inference, or a fact, whatever it may be, with this so much reference, it is left on investigators to decide whether this Happy Valley was once a sheet of water.

KASHMIR HISTORY UP TO-DATE

Kashmir is bounded on the north by the karakorum range, on the east by the chinese Tibet, on the south by the Punjab and on the west by the Punjab and Hazara country. The area of the whole state is nearly 85,000 square miles. Politically the state constitutes four provinces—Ladakh in the east, Gilgit and Baltistan in the north, Kashmir in the west and Jammu in the south. But the latter two provinces are important. The ruler of the state is a Hindu dogra maharaja. Kashmir has a record which places it high among the territories of India in point of interest. Early history of Kashmir is indefinite and too long to write here within a few pages. However, it is regarded that before the great conqueror of Ceylon, Shri Ram Chandra whose glories are sung in Ramayan, there was no firm rule and it was he who established his rule on firm lines. Kings after Kings ruled over it and went away. After Hindus came Budhists and their influence predominated in the early history. Hindus and Budhists lived amicably together as observed and related by Hieuen-Tesiang—the chinese Travellar—in the Sixth century. The subsequent history of Kashmir for some hundreds of years was a succession of violent changes in which dynasty succeeded dynasty, as some adventurer or other, by his military talents, acquired power.

At the end of the 14th century, Mohamadan rule came over the Happy valley through a line of so-called sultans. The best wellknown of them was Zainuddin who was a good ruler both for Hindus and Mohamadans. He erected many bridges and buildings. Hindu learning revived and Brahmans regained their influence in his reign. This enlightened sultan's death left Kashmir a prey to the old anarchial influences.

It was not until the conquest of the territory by the Emperor Akbar at the end of the sixteenth century that a reign of order and law under Mogul rule was established., Akbar's associations with Kashmir is one of the poetic traditions of Indian History. Though he visited Kashmir only three times in his life, yet he was much attracted to it and gave much attention in its administration. It is, however, to the Emperor Jehangir that Kashmir owes its opulent memories of Mogul rule. This monarch was greatly attracted to this country and he lavished upon it an extra-ordinary amount of money and care. He, consequently, caused to be created magnificent buildings and lovely pleasure gardens in their appropriate positions. He was succeeded by the Emperor Shahjahan during whose reign many beautiful buildings and gardens were laid out. The Mogul connection lasted until the middle of the eighteenth century, when, in consequence of the decline of Imperial Power of Moguls the *subah* of the state became perfectly independent of Delhi. Thereafter ruthless Afghans ruled over it during whose time

the people were brutally oppressed. Every governor from Kabul was more cruel than his predecessor.

At length, the people being unsupportable and miserable turned for aid to Ranjit Singh of Lahore whose rising star was then attracting the attention of whole India. At consequence of this appeal, the Sikh Chief sent an army to Kashmir in 1814 to establish Sikh Rule. The expedition was a failure and again in 1819 Ranjit Singh's best general accompanied by Gulab Singh of Jammu invaded Kashmir and established Sikh Power. The Sikh though milder than Afghans were in many respects cruel.

While Kashmir was passing through such vicissitudes, a new power was growing in influence on the environs of the state. This was the authority waged by Goolab Singh, a Rajpoot who was one of Ranjit Singh's favourite lieutenant. Created Raja of Jammu in 1820 for services rendered to the Sikh cause, Gulab Singh, by force of character, speedily organised his territory on firm lines and established a complete domination of nearly all the country between Kashmir and the Punjab. Ladakh and Baltistan were also conquered with the consequence that Gulab Singh was practically master of all the territory immediately surrounding Kashmir. When war broke out between the British and Sikhs, Gulab Singh did not take part until in 1846, after the battle of Sobraon, he acted the part of a mediator between the British and the beaten army. As a result of this, Kashmir was transferred from the British to Gulab Singh for the sum of Rs 75 lakhs and

signed a treaty by which Gulab Singh agreed to present annually one horse, twelve goats and three pairs of shwals in token of his recognition of British supremacy.

Maharaja Goolab Singh was a good administrator and was an able man. As a brave Rajput, he defeated many enemies in his time. He died in 1857. Maharaja Sir Ranbir Singh Sahib G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E. succeeded him. He was an excellent ruler, a man of learning and culture and strong intelligence. On his death in September of 1885, he was succeeded by his eldest son, Maharaja Pratap Singh whose title was "Lieutenant-General His Highness Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., C. B. E., L. L. D. Indar—Mohindar, Sipar-i-Saltanat of Jammu and Kashmir state. He was 35 when he came to the throne and had already made his mark as a Scholar and administrator. He reigned very efficiently for about 40 years and died in 1925. He was succeeded by his nephew, Maharaja Sir Hari Singh Sahib K. C. I. E. who is the present ruler. He is a kind man. His sympathy over the poor subjects has made him well-known. He is keenly devoted to sports and games.

MODERN KASHMIR.

The population of the state is more than 36 lakhs. The Mohemadāns make up about three-fourth population which being 76% of the entire population. But they are 95% in the Kashmir valley and Hindus 5% which include Kashmiri Pandits who constitute 1·7% of the entire population of the state. The Kashmiris are of a nearly pure Aryan race but there is a slight admixture of Mongolian blood on the frontier next Tibet. The people speak very mixed Aryan dialects. The Hindus, particularly of Jammu Province, are called 'Dogras'.

The State of Kashmir is a native state under British Suzerainty, just like any other. Kashmir is made up of a mass of snow-covered mountains with narrow valleys and one broad one—the Valley of Kashmir. According to the physical aspects of the country, it is divided into two nearly equal parts by the Indus and Gilgit valleys which meet and form a straight line, cutting across the country from South-east to North-west. All to the North of this line makes up Trans-Himalyan Kashmir and the part to the South is Himalyan Kashmir.

Trans-Himalyan Kashmir is a mass of mountains and except in the valley of the Shyok, it is all over 12,000 feet above sea-level. These mountains run from North-west to South-east in three roughly parallel



A Poplar Avenue (Kashmir)

IS KASHMIR AN EXPENSIVE PLACE

This is a very difficult problem to solve within limited space. However, some idea is being given to satisfy the enquirers. I may tell you exactly that Kashmir is such a place which can suit every pocket. Even the poorest of the poor and richest of the rich can live here and enjoy Kashmir climate, Kashmir fruits and its grand sceneries. This is no exaggeration. This is a fact. You can know it when you will try to know it and observe it. I may impress you that there is no other part of earth in the whole world which possesses the above qualities as Kashmir does. Kashmir is a first class place and, even then, people of all classes can live here comfortably. A rich man can enjoy in as many ways as he likes.

More expenses or less expenses depends upon individual's purse, interest and the view with which one is going to Kashmir. Moreover an economic man can economise his expenses in various ways if he has an economical mind. Make a party of your own. Start for Kashmir. Save expenses in various ways such as hiring a boat, tonga and the like. Such other suggestive means can economise your expenses to a great extent. Also see elsewhere,



On the way to Kashmir

— ROUTES TO KASHMIR

As a matter of fact, there are only three passages for vehicular traffic existing at present besides many footpaths and short cuts to the Happy Valley of Kashmir. It depends upon the convenience, facility, economy and interest of the visitor which way to chose. However, some information and advantages of each route will be given as concise and appropriate as possible for the convenience of the visitors.

The routes are :—

1. Rawalpindi Srinagar enroute Murree
2. Jammu Srinagar (Kashmir)
3. Havelian Abbotabad Srinagar

There are many footpaths with a special path dealt elsewhere. Now, the above mentioned routes will be taken and dealt with from all points under their respective heads.

Rawalpindi—Srinagar enroute Murree.

The motor road was built some 25 years back when *tongas* were in use. Their charges were very high and visitors used to reach in 5 or 6 days and also in less period in some cases. The road, beyond

Baramulla without exaggeration is regarded as one of the best roads in the world. Much traffic goes daily on this road because of its good situation and built. And this route is generally preferred by the visitors because of convenience and facility that it provides. This route is however, blocked by snow in winter when Abbottabad route is followed which joins the former at Domel and the same course is followed on wards. The distance from Rawalpindi to Srinagar enroute Murree is 196 miles. The journey is covered in two days by a motor lorry and halt in the night is made at any one of the convenient motor stations. A car can cover the distance in one day only. The road is practically level for the first 17 miles, the ascent begins at 23rd mile and increases rapidly until it reaches Sunny Bank (*Murree*). The way presents Zigzag circuiting course with good scenery throughout. Descent begins on wards and continues till Kohala is reached where passengers are scorched by the heat of the sun and this is the place whence the territory of the Maharaja begins. Further the way is full of beautiful scenery, refreshing breezes and with a special feature that the River Jhelum remains along the road for most part of the journey which increases its enjoyment. Some brief descriptions of the stages, which are dealt with, following in consecutive order, will be useful for information :—

1. Rawalpindi is the first starting stage, a station on the North Western Railway and is 1725 feet high above sea-level. It is a big city. Hotels, rest houses,

Dharmshalas are all found here. Canvassers and agents of various motor companies will meet you at the station. Wait, compare, reduce, and then decide what to pay the fare (inclusive of toll charges?) next—

2. Barako is an important military camp station ;

3. Satara-mile, here toll is paid ;

4. Chhatar has a nice fruit garden ;

5. Tret where radiators are renewed ;

6. Chhara pani is the first place where scorched passengers coming from the plains are refreshed ;

7. Ghoragali possesses a small but busy market ;

8. Sunny Bank whence two miles on the right side of the main road is Murree, an important hill station ;

9. Chikagali is the highest point of the journey and possesses a busy market ;

10. Bagla is a small village with a dharmshala ;

11. Phagwari is also a village like Bagla ;

12. Kohala where toll is paid, suspension bridge is crossed to gain Kashmir territory ;

13. Dulai where Marquis of Ripon, the then Viceroy of India and Lady Ripon were given refreshments in 1883 which gave its name Honeymoon Cottage ;

14. Domel—the meeting place of two rivers Jhelum and Kishanganga—here toll is again paid, passengers undergo a strict medical examination and their luggage is inspected ; next

15. Garhi contains a bazar ;

16. Chinari “where ruins of an old palace are seen and this is a good night halting place ; further—

17. Urhi possesses a very good dak-bungalow and a little further on the main Road is the famous *Electric Power Station at Mahora* with its immense power house and other buildings ; the water head obtained is from the River Jhelum and the fall is not less than 400 feet in depth ;

18. Rampur where green rice fields are very bewitching and an old temple supposed to be the most perfect shrine of its kind in India is seen here ; next—

19. Baramulla, the biggest and the largest town in the Happy valley of Kashmir, possesses a big exporting market and beyond it, the road is the most beautiful in the world being bordered with tall, erect, and white Poplar trees ; further—

20. Patan is renowned for some excavations of old Hindu temples ; after Patan with a beautiful scene alround you reach :—

Srinagar—the Capital of Kashmir.

To let you know milage from stage to stage, their

altitudes and other information not given in the above, a table is given.

Rawalpindi Srinagar enroute Murree.

| Stages | Miles from Rawalpindi | Hight in feet | Remarks |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Rawalpindi N. W. R. | | 1725 | P.O., T.O., D.B., Hotels etc. |
| Barako | 14 | 1800 | |
| Satramiles | 17 | 2000 | |
| Chhatar | 19 | 2100 | R.H. |
| Tret | 25 | 4000 | P.O. T.O., D.B. |
| Ghoragali | 35 | 5000 | " " " " |
| Summy Bank | 37 | 6000 | " " D.B |
| Murree | 40 | 6500 | " " " Hotels |
| Chhika gate | 42 | 6500 | |
| Bagla | 47 | 5500 | |
| Phagwari | 54 | 3000 | |
| Kohala | 68 | 1900 | P.O, T.O, DB. |
| Dulai | 79 | 2000 | DB. |
| Domei | 89 | 2200 | P.O, T.O, " " |
| Garhi | 103 | 2700 | " " ... R.H. |
| Chinari | 119 | 3500 | " " " " |
| Uri | 137 | 4400 | " " DB. " |
| Rampur | 150 | 4900 | " " " " |
| Baramulla | 166 | 5100 | " T.O, DB. R.H. |
| Patan | 182 | 5200 | " " " " " |
| Srinagar | 196 | 5200 | " " " " etc. |

P.O = Post office,

D.B = Dak Bengalow.

T.O = Telegraph office.

R.H = Rest House.

✓ Jammu Srinagar Route

The motor road was constructed some about 10 years back. It is throughout more or less zigzag and circuiting. This course presents better hill scenery than Rawalpindi Murree route. First 40 miles are hot

and unpleasant but later on it will increase more and more pleasant as you advance towards Kashmir. You will undergo a medical examination at or near Jammu station. The distance between Jammu and Srinagar is 206 miles and the journey is covered in two days. Now guiding information about stages in consecutive order are given. The journey is commenced from Jammu :—

1. Jammu, the capital city of Jammu Province, situated on the River Tawi, is a station on North Western Railway, 114 miles from Lahore and 1300 feet high above sea-level. Hotels, rest houses, Dharmshalas are present. Jammu was founded by Raja Jambu Lochan 5000 years ago. It is the winter Residence of His Highness the maharaja of the state. Some places of more or less interest in the city, are the following :—Royal Palaces, Court Buildings, Ramnagar Palace, Museum, Electric Power station, Fort Bahu, Prince of Wales college, silk factory and grand Rughnath temple. Most of them are located near the Jammu Srinagar road. Thousands of pilgrims come here annually for *darshan* to the temple of a goddess (Veshnu Devi), 35 miles distant from Jammu. Later on, you will see other following stages.

2. Tank of Queen where toll is paid ;

3. Jhajjar is a small village ;

4. Udhampur is a good flourishing district in the state possessing court, hospital, jail, a good market. and Telegraph & Post Offices ;

5. Samrole possesses a spring of great digestive properties ;

6. Dromthal contains wild pomegranates in large quantities in the way ;

7. Khud where there is a fountain coming out through a lion-shaped iron mouth and is a nice night halting place ;

8. Batote possesses a Sanitorium for tuberculosis patients, its climate is very nice ;

9. Ramban possesses a climate similar to Batote ;

10. Ramsu claims a good climate ; next is ;

11. Barchal which leads a little further to a tunnel two hundred yards long constructed at a great cost and 9000 feet high above sea-level

12. Munda (Upper and Lower) whence Kashmir Valley commences, (between these two, a road bifurcates to Vary Nag dealt elsewhere). Settle with the driver to show it in the way which is about 2 miles from Munda and this suggestion is from economy standpoint ;

13. Qazigund is a good fruit exporting market ;

14. Khannabal possesses His Highness's Rest House and a mile eastward is Anantnag, after Khannabal the road is beautifully bordered with Poplar trees and you will see, later on, in the way :—

15. Avantipur possessing ruins of Hindu temple, Pampur possessing saffron fields, Pandrethan temple with its ruins, various gardens and buildings till you finally reach Srinagar ; the capital of Kashmir, which is

the final destination of your journey. A table is given to let you know all other necessary information.

✓ Jammu Srinagar Route

| Stages | Miles from Jammu | Altitude | Remarks |
|----------------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| Jammu N. W. R. | ... | 1300 | P.O. T.O. R.H. |
| Jhajjar | 21 | 3000 | " " R.H. |
| Udhampur | 42 | 2000 | " T.O. " |
| Dharamthal | 55 | 3700 | " " " |
| Batote | 80 | 3800 | " T.O. " |
| Ramban | 97 | 2400 | " " " |
| Ramsu | 113 | 4100 | " " " |
| Banihal | 124 | 5700 | " T.O. " |
| Munda | 154 | 7000 | " |
| Khannabal | 175 | 5300 | |
| Avantipur | 188 | 5250 | P.O. ... R.H. |
| Srinagar | 205 | 5200 | " T.O. etc. |

P.O.=Post office

R.H.=Rest House

T.O.=Telegraph office

Etc.=Hotels House boats

Abbotabad Srinagar Route

This route is almost dry from tourist's point of view and is in no way better in scenes and sceneries as that of Rawalpindi and Jammu. Speciality with this route lies in the fact that roads are not blocked by snow in winter.

Abbotabad is a Hill Station 4000 feet high above Sea-level. The approach is made to it through Havelian, a station on North-Western railway whence Abbotabad is nine miles. The total distance from

Havelian upto Srinagar is 169 miles and this route meets the Rawalpindi route at Domel whence Srinagar is 111 miles left. The following table will let you know stages and milages :—

| Stages | Miles from Havelian |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Havelian N. W. R. Sta. | |
| Abb. tabad | 9 |
| Mansehra | 25 |
| Garhi Habibulla | 44 |
| Muzzafarabad | 57 |
| Domel | 58 |
| Srinagar | 111 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 169 |

Kashmir on Foot

The foot-paths are difficult, yet they present first class scenery. Those who can walk over hills or have a previous experience and practice and can bear difficulties incurred in the way as well as ample time at their disposal should follow one proposed route of the following which is dealt with descriptively. You should book your extra luggage through a motor company to Srinagar. Hire a coolee who will carry luggage as well as serve as a guide in the way. Carry only indispensable requirements such as—few warm and summer clothes, a small bedding and the like and then commence your journey through the following routes :—

1. Gujrat N. W. R. Sta—Bhimbar—Shopian—Srinagar.

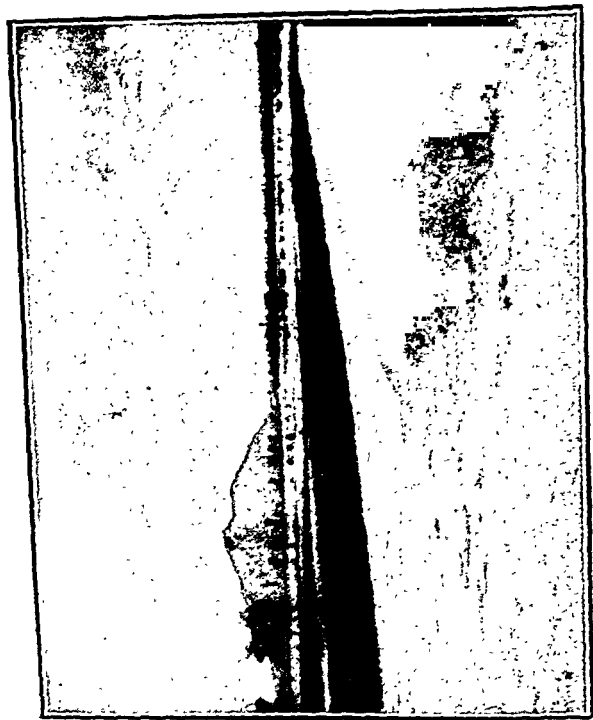
2. Gujrat—Punch—Baramulla—Srinagar,
3. Pathankot—Chamba—Islamabad—Srinagar.
4. Jhelum N. W. R. Sta—Kotli—Srinagar.
5. Jammu N. W. R. Sta—Udhampur—Banihal Tunnel—Varynag—Srinagar.

The best and proposed route is the last one because of facilities and convenience that it provides. This is the best footpath which affords the best scenery, the best natural beauty and the best digestive springs. Therefore a short description of the journey will be useful :—

Jammu to Udhampur is 42 miles and should be travelled on a motor because it does not contain much pleasant scenes. Hence commence your journey onwards Udhampur on foot. You can comfortably stop at any one of the following stages wherever you like. For further information regarding mentioned stages, consult the "Jammu-Kashmir Route" already described. The table will show stages and milages.

Kashmir on Foot.

| Stage. | Distance | Stage. | Distance |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Jammu | | Ramban | 12 |
| Udhampur | 42 Miles | Ramsu | 15½ |
| Somrole | 11 " | Banihal | 9½ |
| Kudh | 8 " | Varynag | 12 |
| Batote | 6 " | Islamabad | 16 |
| | | | 132 |
| | | Srinagar | 32 |
| | | | 164 |



Dal Lake (Kashmir)

HAPPY VALLY OF KASHMIR

Kashmir has given its name to a large state of which 'Kashmir Valley' is but a small part. It is the most important valley in Kashmir State watered by Jhelum and its canals. It is the largest plane land of flat country in the whole State and its situation among the snow-clad mountains makes it one of the most beautiful regions of the world. It is about 84 miles in length and 30 miles in breadth with an area of about 4,500 sq. miles and lies over 5000 feet above sea-level. The proper place for beauty in the province of Kashmir is the centre of Kashmir which is enclosed by Pansal, Pir Punjal Darwar, Harmukh and Sonmarg.

The province of Kashmir is the only part of the whole state so much renowned for its climate, production and beauty that no other province has an equal to it and so much so that it is called the best region of the world in many respects. It is the only part in the earthly Kingdom of the Providence which being so high in altitude provides all necessities of life along with one of the best sceneries in the world besides very many unique products. All other hill-stations lack in one or more things if they possess some speciality which is responsible for its fame ; but Kashmir is the region where lofty hills, snow-capped mountains, beautiful glaciers, flat country with agricultural fields and fruit gardens

are all exhibited at close quarters which consequently provide all tastes and inclinations. One more beauty is exhibited that Kashmir possesses in a grand scale, a variety in scenes, climate, fruits and vegetables and so one is not disgusted by monotony. One can have innumerable changes and has not to spend much time and money to move from one place to the other. There are many lakes in Kashmir situated on thousands of latitudes both among the mountains and in the valleys. The most important are the Wular and Dal in the Kashmir valley. Lake Wular is the largest fresh water lake in India.

The climate of Kashmir valley is healthy and invigorating, its amazing wealth of flowers and fruit blossoms is undescribably beautiful, and the grand panorama of surrounding snow-capped mountains, with peaks ascending to about 28,000 feet, is one of the grandest in the world. The natural beauty, the scenery on mountains and lowlands is enhanced by the gorgeous display of blossoms on immense number of fruit bearing trees of many varieties.

The Kashmir valley is famous for Kashmir fruits which are renowned for their durability, juiciness and flavour throughout the whole world. Kashmir is well-known for its production of excellent fruits such as apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, strawberries and various other fruits which grow in Europe. Wines of excellent qualities are manufactured which are cheap in prices. Jams are made from many fruits. Tea, cinchona and hops are also cultivated.

Kashmir produces many crops, the chief being rice, maize, wheat, barley, millets and pulses which can thrive without much rain due to great humidity in the valley. Other things of importance are saffron, banafsha and shilajit.

The people are very skilful and manufacture beautiful woollen fabrics, celebrated shwals, excellent carpets etc and these are now an established industry in Kashmir. Embroidery on various material—shwals, numdas, sarees (silk loose garments) etc—has become an art of exquisite nature. Puttoo, an imitation of tweeds, is largely exported from Kashmir which affords a cheap suiting. Wood carving is an ancient craft of the country and very fine example of architectural work are still to be seen in some of the old mosques. The Kashmir silversmiths are good craftsmen and work very efficiently. Copper-smiths are equally too good and place in the market various designs of materials of a good finish.

Silk industry is a special feature in Kashmir and possesses the largest Silk factory in the whole world. It exports a large amount of silk-yarn to foreign countries and thus it is a source of great income to the state.

CLIMATE OF KASHMIR

The climate of Kashmir is excellent for health. Kashmir possesses very many healthy places. You can choose any one of them. The water springs and streams are abundant in Kashmir which possess highly digestive properties. The water of Chashma Shahi garden, Srinagar, is one of the best in the valley. The water of Pahalgam is also one of the best. The water of Kookernag is really too good to describe. The water of Gulmarg is very refreshing and cold. Air throughout the Happy Valley of Kashmir is pure and fresh. The air is of a very invigorating character as it is well-known. Consequently the air and water of Kashmir is health and body builders. The Kashmir fruits for which Kashmir is renowned enhance health improvement and increases body development. The climate of the valley is most salubrious and is similar to that of Switzerland when compared. Owing to its height and presence of masses of snow-covered mountains, the climate of Kashmir is never very hot and from October to April, it is very cold. The Summer weather commences in the valley in the month of May, but the heat is not oppressive till July or August when there is an exodus of visitors to cold places like Gulmarg, Sonmarg etc. There are heavy falls of snow in Jan and Feb and the lakes are partly frozen in winter, but the surrounding heights are thickly clothed in their white garments by the third week of Oct. Speaking generally the climate of the Valley is of an invigorating character ; there is a rich profusion

of the most beautiful flowers, and the forests on the slopes of the hills above are very striking in the harmonious effect of their colouring. Kashmir possesses an extraordinary variations of temperature and contains six kinds of seasons as follows :—

1. Winter—(Jan & Feb)—when snow falls.
2. Spring—(March & April)—The trees are laden with flowers.
3. Early summer—(May & June)—Flowers begin to fall and visitors begin to pour in.
4. Summer—(July & Aug)—Hottest months at Srinagar. Visitors leave for colder places.
5. End of summer—(Sept & Oct)—Visitors start to go back. The bloom of saffron flowers commences in October.
6. Autumn—(Nov & Dec)—Leaves fall and flowers wither.

It will be useful to cite here a table showing temperature at Srinagar.

Temperature at Srinagar

| Month | Temp. in Shade. | Mean | Month | Temp. in Shade. | Mean |
|--------|-----------------|------|-------|-----------------|------|
| | Degrees in Fah. | | | Degrees in Fah. | |
| Jan. | 15—45 | 35 | July. | 55—90 | 80 |
| Feb. | 20—50 | 40 | Aug. | 45—85 | 70 |
| March. | 30—60 | 48 | Sept. | 45—70 | 60 |
| April. | 35—80 | 55 | Oct. | 35—60 | 50 |
| May. | 45—85 | 65 | Nov. | 25—50 | 45 |
| June. | 50—95 | 75 | Dec. | 20—45 | 40 |

Average annual rainfall at Srinagar is 27 inches.

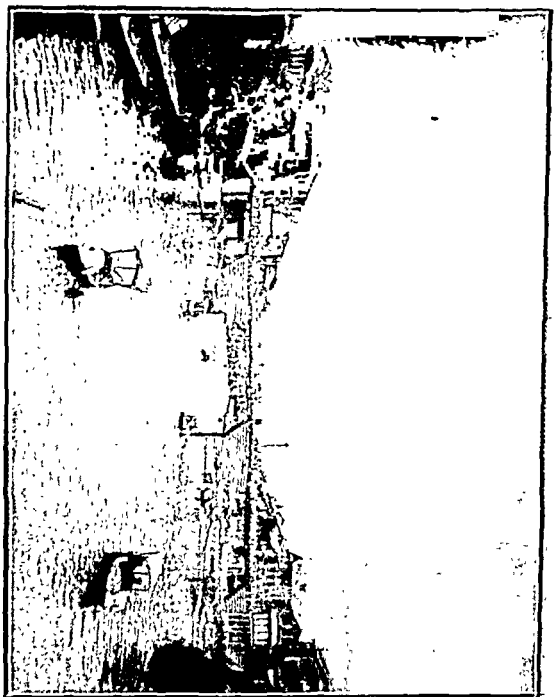
SRINAGAR

"THE CAPITAL OF KASHMIR"

Srinagar meaning "Surya-nagar" or the city of the sun, is the capital of the state situated 5200 feet high above sea-level. It extends for a distance of more than 5 miles on both sides of the River Jhelum over which seven important bridges, almost all of timber, are constructed. The city has an area of about 5,139 acres with a population of more than 2 lakhs. Srinagar had been in old days, summer residence of Mogul Emperors.

It is a great commercial city in the whole state, the reason being the centre of trade routes to the Punjab, on the one hand, and Northern Kashmir and Tibet on the other. The city possessing quaint wooden houses along both the banks of the river, situated in an amphitheatre of snow-clad mountains, is extremely picturesque.

The people speak very mixed Aryan dialects. Most of them understand Urdu and Hindustani languages. Pandits are more educated, while other subjects of the state are improving in education. On the whole, the people are poor, less educated and ignorant of hygiene. Some quarters of Kashmiris are dark gloomy and dirty. Amirakadal is a very good place in the city from sanitary, climate, cleanliness and commercial standpoints. Other good and upto date sites are at Gupkar Road and along the Bund. You will notice innumerable Baghs or gardens in Srinagar



A Bridge in Srinagar

which is a special characteristic of Kashmir. There are seven bridges of importance in Srinagar and their names will be useful to cite here. First is Amirakadal, second Habba-Kadal, third Fateh-Kadal, fourth Zena-Kadal, fifth Alikadal, Sixth Nawa-Kadal and seventh Saffa-Kadal. And the habitation ceases beyond Chhatabal weir, a place few yards beyond the seventh bridge.

Visitors begin to come to the Happy Valley of Kashmir in the month of May, they see places of interest till hot months commence at Srinagar when they go to colder places like Gulmarg, Pahalgam etc. In September and October they come back here again, do shopping business and return to their homes

Before dealing with "Places of interest" in Srinagar and outside Srinagar to solve the problem as "where to stay in Kashmir" will be indispensable.

✓ **Where to Stay at 'Srinagar'.**

There is sufficient arrangement for accommodation available in Srinagar. Almost all accommodations are upto-date, nice and clean. You may stay either in a Hotel, House Boat, Bungalow, Tent, House and Huts, on 'Paying Guest System' or a Dharmshala. You can arrange at any one of them according to economy, convenience and interest. A short description of them will be indispensable.

✓ **Hotels.**

There are many hotels in Srinagar located at appropriate positions which provide an upto-date

accommodation at reasonable rates. For European and Americans, the best hotel is Nedous Hotel near Polo ground, 1st Bridge. It also provides room for Hindus and Muslims as well. There are other following hotels for Muslims :—

1. Punjab Muslim Hotel, 1st Bridge, Srinagar.
2. Sharif Muslim Hotel, 1st Bridge, Srinagar.
3. Satara Muslim Hotel, 1st Bridge, Srinagar.

There are other various hotels which provide accommodation for Hindus :—

1. Khalsa Hindu Hotel, 1st Bridge, Srinagar.
2. Punjab Hindu Hotel, 1st Bridge, Srinagar.
3. Kashmir Hindu Hotel (in House Boat) 1st Bridge Srinagar.
4. Indian Hotel, 1st Bridge, Srinagar.

— House-Boats.

There are thousands of house-boats with their special names to let at Srinagar. Their number is increasing very rapidly everyday. Beautiful designs and comfortable sizes of them are coming forth to satisfy different tastes of visitors. Most of them are single-storied with an arrangement of seats on their roofs. They are sufficiently wide (10-15 feet) ; and their length varies a great deal. The house-boats are divided into compartments which make separate rooms. Majority of them are well equipped with rugs, carpets, chairs, tables and such other comforts. Almost all of them are decorated, more or less, with beautiful pictures, photos, flower-pots and beautiful embroidered screens.

Some have a set of books and periodicals which make a sort of small library. Most of them have electric arrangement and when connection available, they are lighted with electricity. Each house-boat is attached with a Kitchen boat and a Shikara (a light small boat). The rates and charges vary very much according to the type and size of them. However, some idea, for the sake of information, is given. They run between Rs. 100 and Rs. 400 per month. Fluctuations are almost likely according to the nature of the season. This amount does not include the pay of the servants who are required for private work and also not of those who are employed for moving them up and down the river, lakes and other places. Generally the house-boats are stayed at one place for a long period and excursions to different places are made in the Shikara. Only in special cases for a good place chosen, which is near or distant, the house-boats are moved. This depends upon the will of the occupants. Generally the whole of the house-boat is lent. If one likes to take one or more rooms, he cannot get except in 'Kashmir Hindu Hotel'. He has to hire the whole of it. What happens, sometimes, is that two or three gentlemen combine and take up the whole. However, a party or a family is not to worry as to make partners. To spend summer months in house-boats in the Happy valley of Kashmir is most pleasing. To most of visitors who love fishing, the house-boat life becomes still more interesting.

✓ Bungalows

The upto-date bungalows are now available at good positions and arrangement should be made through some agent in the beginning of the season as their number is limited. Rents are charged for the full season ; it does not matter, whether you take in early or late season.

✓ Camping

Tents can be had on hire from several agencies at almost all important places in the valley of Kashmir. In Srinagar, there were many pitching grounds like Munshi-Bagh, Sonawar-Bagh and Chinar-Bagh open to all visitors ; but from 1931 they are not allowed to be pitched without special permission obtained from the state authorities. Further, since the year of 1931, a special tax—the land-tax—has been imposed due to large number of visitors pitching their tents. The charges are variable according to the area of land taken. At present, Nasim-Bagh is the only place near Srinagar where camp-outfits can be done, Nasim-Bagh is a beautiful place near Dal lake, 5 miles distant from Srinagar. The chinar trees afford a very good shade. The breezes passed through them are very refreshing and pleasing.

✧ Houses

Family quarters are available in residential area near about 1st Bridge at reasonable charges. Their sanitary conditions are in no way superior to open places. However, some of them are good which are often booked in early part of the season.

✓ **Paying Guest System**

Guests are sometimes also invited on paying system by some European ladies residing in house boats. The charges for board and lodging are varied and depends upon the circumstances as the case may be. Therefore they should be asked for any thing you enquire.

✓ **Dharmshalas**

There are very many public places which afford free accomodation for a fixed period as allowed under the rules and regulations of these organisations. The Dharmshalas of importance are the following :—

1. Sanatan Dharm Pratap Bhawan,
1st Bridge, Srinagar.
2. Sikh Gurudwara, 1st Bridge
3. Arya-Samaj (College Section)
Hazuri Bagh, 1st Bridge.
4. Arya-Samaj (Gurukul Section)
Hazuri Bagh, 1st Bridge.
5. Badrika-Ashram Parade-Ground, 1st Bridge.
6. Dashnami-Akhara, 1st Bridge
7. Makhan Singh-ki-Dharmshala, Hari Singh High
Street, 1st Bridge.
8. Ram Bagh near Flood Channel, 1st Bridge.
9. Narain Math—Srinagar
10. Durga Nag near Shankeracharya Hill, Srinagar.

*N. B :—*Nos. 8, 9, 10 are open only for Sadhus and No. 9 for Bengali Sadhus in particular ; 3 days stay in No. 1 and 7 and a week's Stay in rest of the Dharmshalas are allowed at present.

Conveyance

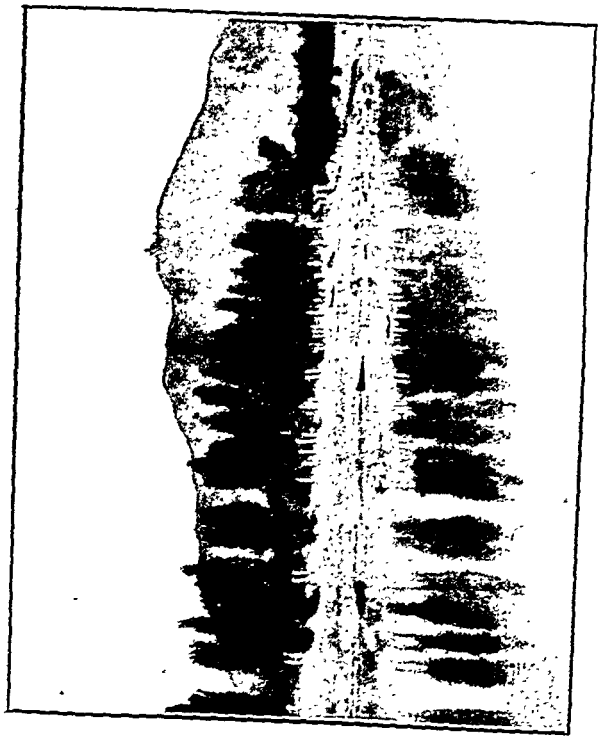
One can visit almost all important places in the Kashmir valley on a car, lorry or a tonga and other places of more or less importance near-about them where vehicles cannot go, can be visited by every day excursions made to them either on a pony or on foot as the case may be and as you like. Lorries, ponies and tongas are all available at reasonable rates. Shikaras or boats are also available and should be engaged for the places of interest wherever they can go. If you are in a house-boat, you have your own shikara.

Provisions

There is no difficulty as regards provisions in Kashmir valley and particularly at important places such as Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam etc. Everything is available here. You can arrange for board at hotel or any other place. Bread-makers or the '*tandurs*' are also found here as in the Punjab. If you are an orthodox Hindu, it will be better and advisable to take a servant with you because very few Hindu servants are available in Kashmir. All sorts of good sweets are found in the market. All kinds of provisions for Europeans are available in upto-date shops.

✓ Shankeracharya Temple

This temple is situated on the summit of Shankeracharya Hill, 6200 feet high above the sea



River Jhelum (Srinagar)

level. Here, a Buddhist Temple (probably the oldest in Kashmir) was built about the year 200 B. C., but all traces of it have now disappeared. In place of it, the temple, in existence to-day, was erected during the fifth century A. D. by Raja Gopaditya. It is about 2 miles from Amira-Kadal and is visible from almost all quarters of the City. The ascent is made from Durga-Nag, a place of worship, less than half mile from Nedous Hotel. The tourists must obtain a view of the City which is excellent and will notice the zigzag river course, Kashmiri wooden houses, the Dal view with several *nalas* and the huge ranges of mountains in the far distance. From this place you can have a Birds Eye view of the whole city as well as can find out locations of important places in or at Srinagar. A telescope will greatly help you in this connection. As far as possible, go there early in the morning.

✓ **Mogul Gardens**

There are three renowned gardens founded in Mogul Emperor's reign. All of them are located at the base of a hill and hence lie on one road, one after the other. On sundays, the visitors go there in thousands from morn till evening and add much beauty to make a grand show in these gardens.

You may go to them either on a tonga or a motor or a Shikara whichever you may like. You will see several places in both the routes besides the famous gardens of Chashma-Shahi, Nishat and Shalamar. I will propose

to go there on a tonga and to make a second trip, the second day towards Dal lake only by the Shikara. When you will go by a tonga, you see the following in the way in consecutive order if start is made from 1st Bridge :—

Sanatan Dharm Pratap Bhawan possessing magnificent building, Polo ground, Nedous Hotel, the best hotel of its kind in Srinagar, Durga-Nag having a beautiful idol and a place of worship with Shankeracharya temple above ; Gupkar road where upto-date buildings are seen, Badami-Bagh or almond garden near Gupkar ; Palaces of present Maharaja Saheb and Maharani Sahiba ; Vine-yard on the right side, Parimahal near Chasma-Shahi possessing ruins of buildings, next is Chasma-Shahi with its garden of the same name ; Fruits Preserve Works, Nishat Bagh, Nishat Paddy Farm, Pratap Model Farm where experiments on Agricultural problems are carried on and seeds of cerealis, vegetables etc. are sold ; Shalamar Bagh and 3 miles beyond is Harwan-Reservior and Trout Culture Farm where trouts are reared for commercial purpose and some Archeological Excavations are also noticed near Harwan on the same road. You will be much delighted to visit Trout Culture Farm. In one day's trip you will see all of them.

And when you desire to go by a Shikara you will notice the following :—Chinar-Bagh with collections of huge, expansive and shady Chinar trees ; Dal-gate which leads to Dal lake ; Ranawari, a big village

possessing two good temples seen from the Shikara and is the greatest social centre of Kashmiri Pandits ; Hazrat-bal, a small village on the bank of Dal lake, where thousands of Mahemadans from all quarters of the city gather on Fridays for prayers in a magnificent mosque which possesses a capacious courtyard for offering Namaz ; Nasim Bagh, the garden of fresh-breeze, Sonalanka island possessing a central position in the Big Dal where most of the visitors make picnics and then Shalamar, Nishat and Chashma-shahi gardens with Rupalanka island, a place for picnic, between Nishat and Chashma-shahi in the small Dal. While coming back from Chasma-shahi, you will see Govt. Guest House (called Kabutar Khana by Kashmiris) in the Dal and when following the second course as instructed to the boatmen you notice : Gagri-bal at the base of the Shankeracharya-Hill, Munshi-Bagh and places over the bund :—the Srinagar Club, Head Post office, principal stores in which provisions of all kinds may be purchased ; and the Lal-Mandi, built by His Highness the late Maharaja Ranbir Singh as a royal guest-house and now used as a museum since the time of the late Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh and other interesting places over bund till you reach the 1st Bridge. You can see all of this in a day's trip.

When you intend to visit them, start early with your food for the day. The food available in the way is not good but fruits which are available at several places in the journey are excellent. Now, useful descriptions about the renowned gardens are taken into account below.

✓ CHASHMA-SHAHI

"THE SPLENDID SPRING"

It is 5 miles from Amira-Kadal and 4 miles from Nedous Hotel. This is situated within a small garden of the same name. This is a Memorial of the Emperor Shahjahan laid out in 1632 by Mogul Governor, Ali Murdan Khan. At the end of the building which consists of good lawns and beautiful flower pots well arranged, is an ever flowing water spring, the water of which oozes out through a black stone pipe making bubbling sounds. The water has been tested and found to possess a highly digestive property. Majority of the visitors come here with their meals, eat the food and drink the water several times to test whether it is a fact. On sundays, the fountains are made to run when the visit to it becomes more charming. The climate of this place is excellent and hence people desirous of recovering their health used to encamp here. But from the year 1931, it has been prohibited by the state authorities to encamp in Chashma-shahi premises but still, permission can be obtained from them. Fresh milk, fresh fruits and fresh air are abundant here. Two miles off from Chashma-Shahi is Nishat Bagh.



Nishat Bagh (Srinagar)
The Garden of Gladness

NISHAT BAGH

"THE GARDEN OF GLADNESS"

This was founded in the seventeenth century by the great Emperor Jehangir's Prime Minister. It is rectangular in shape. A visit to this garden will convince you that its lay-out is very wisely done. Terrace upon terrace is the special feature of the garden. A stream of water flows down the successive terraces and by a clever arrangement of masonry miniature, cascades are formed which add a great beauty to the whole garden. A view towards Dal Lake, standing on a central platform, is much attractive to the lookers on. A large number of visitors is thronged here on sundays when some are busy in walking, some in gramophone, some in taking photos, some studying Botany and so on. The Persian poet has rightly said that if there is any paradise on earth, it is this.

Agar Firdaus bar rue Zaminast

Haminasto haminasto haminast.

When the visitor shall visit this garden he will approve of the place which is often described and held to be as one having no rival in the world. Besides he will instantly note the remark as introducing the Bagh as the garden of gladness has not been misused.

Two miles from Nishat is the Shalamar Bagh described next.

✓ **SHALAMAR BAGH****"THE ABODE OF LOVE"**

The great Mogul Emperor Jehangir established this garden in 1619 for his beautiful wife Nurjehan, who was a great lover of pleasure gardens like this. This garden is the most pleasing in the Happy Valley of Kashmir. The plan of construction resembles that of Nishat Bagh but Shalamar has got some special characteristics which are asset for its high rank in the minds of visitors which will only be known when you will pay a visit with a keen observing eye. The garden is quadrilateral in shape and the ground is divided in four terraces of about equal dimensions. Every terrace with beautiful lawns, flower-beds of innumerable varieties and long shady chinar trees as well as green and erect cypresses standing at their appropriate positions is more bewitching one over the other. On the fourth or top-most of these is a magnificent black marble pavillion about 65 feet square and in the brilliant period of Delhi emperor, it was called "Abode of Love" and was reserved for the ladies of the court. The tank is 50 feet square containing about 150 fountains well arranged. Electric light is also recently fitted in the garden which has increased its beauty. The garden is very fascinating and charms are still increased on sundays. Three miles to the North is the Harwan Reservoir which is given next.

HARWAN RESERVIOR**'THE SRINAGAR WATER-WORKS'**

The reservior lies at the base of Mahadeo mountains 13000 feet high above the sea-level and is the present source of water supply for the whole city of Srinagar. Its water is very clean and clear. The great late Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh built it. The reservior is 2,100 feet in length, 1000 feet in breadth and with a maximum depth of 30 feet. It also supplies to the Nishat Service Reservior which has a capacity of about 1700,000 gallons and which is equal to supply for 150,000 population at about 6 gallons per head excluding other requirements. In the surroundings of the reservior walnuts, chinar and flower plants are planted which add to the beauty of the spot.

For the Sake of Convenience a table of milage to Mogul gardens will be useful

| Place | From Amira-Kadal. | From Nedous Hotel. |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Gupkar | 2 miles | 1 mile |
| Chashmashahi | 5 " | 4 miles |
| Nishat | 7 " | 6 " |
| Shalamar | 9 " | 8 " |
| Harwan | 12 " | 11 " |

DAL LAKE

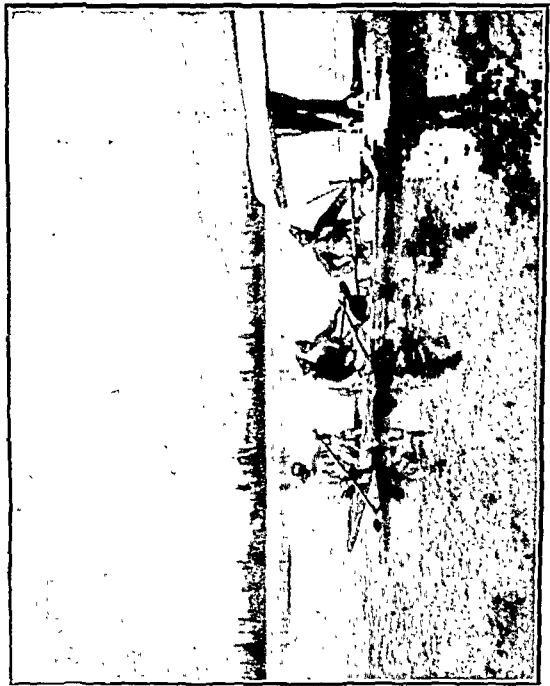
It is the most beautiful sweet water lake in Kashmir and on account of this Kashmir is called the Switzerland of India. The Dal Lake draws its supply of water from the springs and releases the same into the river Jhelum. It is 5 miles in length and 2 miles in breadth and covers an area of 10 square miles. This lake can be divided into three parts as follows :—

1. Nagin Bagh Lake between Ranawari and Nasim Bagh.

2. Big Dal with Sonalanka Island between Nasim and Shalamar baghs.

3. Small Dal with Rupalanka Island between Nishat and Shankeracharya Hill.

The water of Dal is very sweet and clean, particularly in Big Dal. The central parts of it are deep and almost the whole lake is more or less weedy where aquatic plants look very beautiful in the water and in the rest of it lotus leaves, floating gardens and such other things are very interesting. In Dal, near the outskirts of the city, thousands of houseboats of variable sizes and designs make a beautiful show for the visitors. On a windy day, it is a bit dangerous for Shikaras to go into the central Dal. The recommended route between Srinagar and the famous Dal or City lake is by Taunti-Kul Canal, the traveller embarking near the Sher-garhi Palaces. A brief note about the floating gardens will be nevertheless interesting.



A trip in Dal Lake (Srinagar)

Floating Gardens

In Dal, attention will soon be directed to the floating gardens which are the result of an accumulation of earth and vegetable deposits resting upon aquatic plants. Such fields, thus formed, are movable to any corner of the lake. The cultivators and tenant of these fields sometimes steal them at night by tugging away with their boats. The fields are apparently so much alike that while a theft has occurred it is very difficult to trace the property. When you visit Kashmir you will be entertained with lot of fantastic stories of the theft of these fields, and you will enjoy this nevertheless. There is a state official posted for the administration and collection of revenue of these gardens. Melons, water melons and such other (*zaid*) crops are grown in these fields.



NASIM BAGH

"THE GARDEN OF FRESH BKEEZE"

It is 5 miles from Srinagar, located on the bank of Dal Lake. It is a beautiful stretch of park-like land thickly studded with chinar trees. The visitors encamp here after payment of land-tax which is not heavy and this also depends upon the area of land taken. This is a very favourite place of the visitors. The view of the Dal lake is very pleasing here.

✓ SILK FACTORY

This is the largest and the biggest silk factory in the whole world. It is about a mile and half from the 1st Bridge on Rambagh road towards Parade ground. The silk worm (belonging to the families of Bombycidæ and Saturnidæ) prepare cocoons whence silk thread is taken out and reeled up scientifically. Much yarn used to be exported to foreign countries all over the world, but since last two years, export is decreased and consequently the industry is running at a loss at present, while in former times it was the second biggest head of the sources of income to the state. Thousands of workers are engaged in the factory. You will notice how actively they do their work. Some conditions to visit this factory have been put since April 1930 as the number of visitors was increasing every year. The Director has issued the following procedure for the convenience of both the management and the visitors.

"Any person wishing to visit silk factory must apply, in writing, to the Director of Sericulture Department for a Pass, at least 3 days in advance of the intended visit, giving at the same time full name, permanent address and address in Kashmir, written clearly. The management on deciding whether the visit can be arranged will send the permission pass to visitor's lodge fixing the date and time for the visit." Visiting hours are from 12 noon to 1 P.M., on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday only with the exclusion of holidays.

Amar Singh Technical Institute

It is located in Hazuri Bagh near 1st Bridge. This institute was erected by the Darbar as a memorial to the late Sir Raja Amar Singh K. C.S. I. and was opened in 1904. The scope of the institution is intended to teach all the arts and crafts of Kashmir. Its building is small but beautiful. The subjects that are taught are :—Willow basket making, painting, binding, dyeing, black-smithy, engineering and wood-carving. The last thing is now shifted to Jammu Technical Institute. It possesses a "Show Room" which contains many Kashmir products manufactured by the students of the institute. There is a gate-in-charge who will give you the 'Visitors Book, to sign your name with permanent address and will show you all the things. It is open for visits from 10 a m. to 3 p. m.

Hari Parbat Fort

A visitor's eye is attracted on approaching Srinagar to Hariparbat Hill which is about 500 feet high above the level of the city and upon its summit this Fort was built by the Great Emperor Akbar. A large amount of sum was spent upon its construction. The fort contains some old buildings such as those of a goddess Kali and a ammunition store for guns and spears. The hill is also in possession of innumerable images of Hindu gods in its surroundings besides the above in the fort. Permission for entrance is obtained from Mohtmid Darbar which resides near Residency and on Ram naumi and Durga-naumi festivals entrance is free.

✓ JAMA MASJID

It is situated between the Southern end of the Fort Hill and the Zaina-Kadal bridge. Jama-masjid, the cathedral mosque of Srinagar is reached in a few minutes from Zaina Kadal. It was originally built by Sikandar Sultan Shah in the year 1404 A. D. It had gone under repairs since that date several times. Recently it has been restored at the cost of about twelve lakhs.

It is a worth visiting place which reminds, to some extent, an ancient architectural work of Kashmir. It is one of the most imposing edifice with cloisters by 327 pillars, one half of which is more than 40 feet in height. The pillars are huge and appear to be made of stone. The court-yard is very capacious in which thousands of Namazis can sit for prayers.

Chhatabal-weir

Down the 7th Bridge of the river Jhelum this Chhatabal weir-and-lock constructed in the year 1915. It has been so designed that it can keep up the water level of the river upto 6 feet high, at least, which is essential for navigation in winter season. It is lowered in rainy season and raised up in winter. Occasionally it is lowered and raised up in every month to clear off stagnant and dirty water. This process may be repeated several times in a month and the number depends upon the circumstances.

PLACES OF INTEREST ALONG THE RIVER JHELM

SHER-GARHI

"THE ROYAL PALACES"

These grand magnificent buildings are very near to Amira-Kadal and are located in one compact block. Their appropriate positions, huge-massive walls, lofty pillars, gigantic towers and a grand and attractive golden temple make them the most fascinating. The illumination on Devali, Maharaja's Birthday and such other festivals is more bewitching in the night on the river bank. The building constitutes Maharaja's Palaces, State Treasury, Governor's Office, Council Chamber, Darbar Hall and a Golden Temple of its own kind in Srinagar. It is open for visits from morn till evening.

Museum.

It is located in Lal Mundi near the 1st Bridge. The building is of an old design. There is a nice small garden and two leopards in a cage. There are three sections of the whole building :—In one section is museum ; in the second, Meteorological Department and in the third is Sri Pratap Library which is the biggest library in Kashmir, well equipped with News papers, Magazines and Periodicals of all sorts. The library contains all kinds of uptodate literature.

The museum consists of several varieties of innumerable animals—birds, reptiles, fish, stags, bears, monkeys etc. and the second room contains wood, embroidery, carpet, papier-mache work of

Kashmir, old weapons and portraits of late maharajas of Kashmir; and other rooms contain specimens of indigenous drugs, old coins, official stamps etc. and relics of Archeological excavated statues of Budha and carved stones in various languages. A geological section is also attached to the Museum.

Rughnath Temple

This is the biggest temple of Hindus in Srinagar situated on the bank of the river between 2nd and 3rd Bridge. There is a platform over which a lofty temple is built in the centre of four small temples on the same ground. The temple possesses a capacious courtyard as well as big halls which are meant for public lectures and Sanskrit schools. The latter have practically ceased to run due to general apathy to learn Sanskrit. That is a reason why Kashmir which was the centre of Sanskrit learning even superior to Kashi—Benares—has markedly become backward at present.

Srinagar Club

It is in possession of an upto-date building which consists of a well equipped library, a beautiful assembly-hall and a billiard room. There are good tennis courts attached to it. A fine wooden platform just in front of the club which is a part of it, has been projected over the bank of the river whence the sight of the river is very pleasing specially in the evening time. For temporary or permanent membership, the Hon. Secretary should be consulted.

Maharaj Ranbir Gunj

It is situated between the 4th and 5th Bridge and will be seen, while going to Jama-masjid. It is a very busy wholesale market. Its commercial importance is great being the centre of trade between India on the one hand and Tibet, Ladakh and Yarkand on the other.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

Nedous Hotel

This is the best hotel in Srinagar located near Pologround. Its site is appropriate, healthy and sanitary. It can accomodate a large number of visitors. Besides this, it also possesses a large compound for encampment.

Residency

This constitutes a magnificent building with pleasant lawns and chinar trees located very near to Srinagar Club. Here, Resident, Assistant Resident and the Surgeon reside in summer season.

Kothi-Bagh

This is almost replaced by good uptodate shops over the Bund where everything of the modern requirements as well as Kashmir novelties can be purchased.

Sheikh-Bagh

This is a small cemetery located over the Bund containing a beautiful statue which reminds you of the terrible fate which will befall upon all mortals.

Munshi-Bagh

It is a Chinar garden near Sonawar-Bagh about a mile from 1st Bridge. This is a good camping ground which is not open for visitors unless permission is obtained from the Government. There is the famous, 'All Saints Church' located in this garden.

Sonawar-Bagh

Just like Munshi Bagh is this garden located at a distance of 2 miles from 1st Bridge. Condition for camping is the same as in Munshi Bagh.

✓ Chinar Bagh

It is situated near Dal-gate or behind Nedous Hotel and Golf ground. It possesses good camping grounds and the condition for camping is the same as in Munsibagh. It is a good place for occupants of houseboats to moor their boats. The breeze passed through the chinar trees is very refreshing.

Hospitals

There are three important hospitals in Srinagar. One is Mission Hospital located on the western ridge of Shankaracharya Hill. This is well equipped with all medical requirements and is the best of its own kind in Srinagar. The second is State Hospital near 1st Bridge which is recently extended to a great deal. The third is Zenana Diamond Jubilee Hospital meant for females, located on the bank of the river between 6th and 7th Bridge.

✓ **Shah-Hamdan Mosque**

Is situated near 4th Bridge. It possesses a good building of an old design. It was a Hindu temple which was converted into a mosque by Shah Hamdam, a Mohammedan king. But still, Kali-nag, a Hindu goddess is in existence to this day in the same compound which is worshipped by Hindus.

✓ **Makhdum-Sahibs Ziarat**

On the south of the Fort Hariparbat is this mosque where Kashmiri Musalmans go for prayers whenever calamities like famine, cholera and the like befall over them.

C. M.-School

It is on the left bank of the river on the 3rd Bridge. It is an upto-date School to be visited if time permits to do so. Here all important games such as gymnasium, swimming etc are taught.

Chhevin Padshahi

This is a sacred Gurudwara of the Sikhs near Ranawari. It was built in the honour of Shri Har-govind, the sixth Guru.

Telbal

Is a stream, near Nasim-Bagh, which flows into the Dal lake. It is a good place to moor houseboats.

Hazrat-Bal

It is a small village at a distance of 2 miles from Dal-gate. It can be seen when you go to Mogul Gardens on Shikara. It has become renowned from

religious point of view because it contains a mosque where thousands of Kashmiri Mohemadans from all quarters of the city and nearabout villages gather on big Id days in a capacious courtyard that it possesses. Here, a hair of the Prophet Mohammad Sahib's beard has been kept in a bottle. Its ziarat is done on big Id days. This sacred hair, as they say, was brought by some reliable mohemadan from Arabia. Also hundreds of muslims gather here on every Friday.

Yarkandi-Sarai

It is located on the sixth bridge. Here Yarkandi traders reside and do wholesale business in Yarkand products such as carpets, numdas etc.

Arya-Samaj

There are four Arya-Samaj associations in Srinagar. Out of them, two are leading and are located in Hazuri Bagh near 1st Bridge. The latter two possess sufficient free accomodation for visitors and allow a week's stay.

Central-Jail

This is located at the base of Hariparbat Hill on its eastern side. It can be visited with the permission of the Chief Medical Officer. It contains a small printing press. Papers, carpets, and coarse cloth are manufactured. You can also see the lunatic and leper asylums nearby.



Gulmarg (Kashmir)
The Meadow of Flowers

PLACES OF INTEREST OUTSIDE

✓X SRINAGAR

Gulmarg

"THE MEADOW OF FLOWERS"

Is a very beautiful plateau on the western end of the Pir Panjal Range of the Himalyan Mountains situated at an altitude of about 8500 feet above sea-level. There are three routes for Gulmarg and you may choose any one of the following :—

1. Srinagar-Gulmarg via Tangmarg—28 miles.
2. Baramulla-Gulmarg via Kontara—18 miles.
3. Sopore-Gulmarg via Kontara—23 miles.

The most convenient and generally preferred route is the first one. On it, the first 25 miles are travelled on a lorry or car and the remaining 3 miles on ponies or on foot which is very pleasing. There are two stages on this route—Magam and Tangmarg. The former is a small village, 14 miles from Srinagar and possesses a small Dak-bungalow. The latter is the terminal point of vehicular traffic towards Gulmarg. There are motor garages and a small bazar. Here you will meet a large number of ponywalas and coolies to offer their services at reasonable rates.

During the season, from May to September the place is thronged with visitors, while in winter it is a deserted place because of snow-falls. The sides of the huge mountains are clothed with beautiful forests. The flowers in Gulmarg are the loveliest in Kashmir and deserves the name that she has.

The climate of Gulmarg is invigorating and healthy. In the early months of summer, it is cool and pleasant. During rains the showers are sudden and frequent and this mars the charms of trips. In September and October the weather is splendid. Gulmarg is so much liked by Europeans and Americans that many of them spend the whole season here. The majority of Indian visitors usually do not stay here for a long time due to cold. Besides a few hotels there are a number of good huts available for stay. Camping can also be arranged. Visitors coming here for longer stay take up the huts on hire at a rent of Rs. 300 to 600 for the full Season, while for shorter stay, Nedous and Khalsa Hotel are preferred. There is one Dharamsala attached to the latter.

In Gulmarg there are lovely lawns, a golf ground, a polo ground and a nice club. There are three post offices and a few shops where all kinds of modern provisions can be had. Trips to Khillanmarg, Allapathar and Tosh Maidan are made from here. Some information about them is given next.

✓ **Khillanmarg**

Not far from Gulmarg is this place which is a vast plain studded with innumerable flowers of various sizes and colours.

The ice-cool breeze which is constant, blowing from the snow-capped hills on all sides, is very refreshing. There are a number of paths that can be availed from Gulmarg but the best one starts off from the South-east of Nedous Hotel.

Allapathar

Is 10 miles from Gulmarg. Here Europeans will be seen skating. A visit to this place is worth taking the trouble. The path is a little slippery and it requires some skill to go high up. From this place the view of the Happy Valley of Kashmir and of the Wular Lake is magnificent.

Tosh Maidan

Is 12 miles from Gulmarg where visitors go either on ponies or on foot. This is a fine and large plateau which is generally held by the people as a quarry of white stones. The road to Tosh-Maidan goes through the Ferozpur Valley and is very circuitous and, therefore, it would be better if you take a coolie who shall carry your luggage and serve as a guide as well.

GANDERBAL.

Is a small village on the bank of the river Sind and is situated at a distance of 12½ miles from Srinagar by motor road. The journey throughout is pleasant. In this connection it would not be out of place to say a word about Sind. The water of the river is said to be full of lime, is not fit for drinking at all. Besides, the beautiful scenery of the landscape, the broad expanse of water which meets the eye from any point of the place, throws you back into a state of thoughtfulness as you ponder on—the mighty Sind that flows past Ganderbal.

It has become noted for its beautiful camping grounds. Its climate is bracing and for this reason thousands of visitors come here, those who come by road put up tents and those who come by boats moor their boats here. There is a Post and Telegraph office and a Dispensary at Ganderbal. Excursions to Khirbhawani, Manasbal Lake and Ashteng Hill can be made from here. Visitors may arrive at this place by three different routes *i. e.*

i. Srinagar-Ganderbal via Shadipur by the river

ii. Srinagar-Ganderbal by motor road.

iii Srinagar-Ganderbal via Marnulla Canal.

You may follow the first route if you intend to see Wular Lake enroute. The second is generally followed by nearly all the visitors and on this also you go past at the 4th mile the pretty broad Anchar Lake which is described later on. You may take up third route if you wish to go direct by water through the canal.

KHIRBHAWANI

Is the most important shrine of the Kashmiri Pandits and is situated at a distance of 16 miles from Srinagar and 3 miles from Ganderbal on the motor road. The Late Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh had much regard for this temple. It is a small temple situated in the centre of a small tank around which there is a platform on which there are big shady trees and surrounding it also which afford shelter to thousands of pilgrims. The importance of this place lies in the fact that whenever any calamity befalls upon the State of Kashmir the water of the tank changes colours into red, green, blue and black. The black colour is ominous of a calamity which is certain. The Pandits have a great reverence for this place. Here they sing Vedic hymns, do *Homme* and distribute food to the poor. Big festivals take place on the *astmis* of Jeth and Ashar which correspond to the month of June and July, when Pandits from all parts of Kashmir come here on pilgrimage. It is said that many Europeans have thought over the phenomenon of changing of colours of the water but so far they have not been able to prove into the mystery. Whatever it is, a mystery or a chemical phenomenon, no one has up to this day exploded the mystery that surrounds this phenomenon.

MANASBAL LAKE

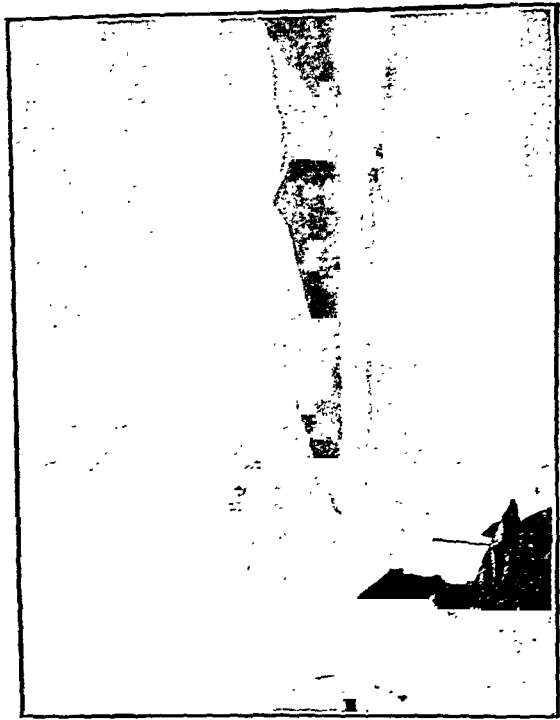
Is 7 miles from Ganderbal by land. This can be seen on your way to the Wular Lake by river. The Manasbal Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in Kashmir. Almost circular in shape having width of a mile and a half. Its water is so clear that stones at the bottom can be seen.

At shallow depths of water beautiful lotus grow in the lake and this adds greatly to the charms of lake. In the surrounding country fruits of different varieties grow abundantly. The lake is joined with river Sind by a canal, and further up the river Sind meets river Jhelum and this sort of interconnection has greatly facilitated communication in the country.

ANCHAR LAKE

It is nearly rectangular in shape and is situated at a distance of four miles from Srinagar. Unlike Manasbal it has its own peculiarities. The lake is full of weeds, chestnut plants and green lotus leaves and these together with the surrounding countryside make altogether a good impression upon the visitors which will be only evident when the visitors have seen Anchar Lake.

On the Eastern side of the Anchar lake, there is a small village called Vicharnag which is a holy place for the hindus and where there are a number of temples for worship. Vicharnag is about 5 miles away from Srinagar and this is also situated on the motor road between Srinagar and Ganderbal.



Wular Lake (Kashmir)

WULAR LAKE

Is the largest fresh water lake in India perhaps in the whole of Asia. The Lake is irregular in shape and shallow in the sides but sufficiently broad and wide. Approximately, it is 14 miles broad in summer and 7 miles in winter but during rains it becomes very wide and touches the villages in the far off neighbourhood. Dredging has considerably limited it in area. When you go into the Wular on boats, please don't get obsessed with the loveliness of it—bear in mind that gliding in boats in the Wular is not always safe in the evening, for heavy wind blows at times and generally comes upon you without notice. Always make it a point to cross the lake in the morning. Surrounding the lake is the Harmukh Mountains. The lake derives its water supply from Jhelum and a number of hill streams. At Sopore the river Jhelum leaves the wular on her journey to Hindustan.

There is an artificial island in the lake which was built by King Zainuddin and this had temples and places erected on it but all of them are now in ruins. In a particular part of the Lake there are many bubbling springs about which the Kashmiri folk have various stories. Besides here and there although scantily distributed, you will see green lotus leaves in the lake which has enhanced its beauty.

There are two routes going to the Lake, one by river and another by road. The former is charming and the latter is comparatively dry and does not

evoke much interest and also you do not come across several places of interest except Sopore. If you choose to go by river, start from Chatabai Weir. Srinagar, a place down the 7th bridge on the Jhelum. Two full days and a night atleast will have to be spent on the journey but it may take more time if you go about leisurely halting at the places of interest. The journey may be commenced either in a dunga or in a houseboat. The dunga goes quicker for its lightness of construction. At a distance of two miles from Weir you arrive Shaltange whither in another ten miles is Shadipore. The journey is beautiful throughout.

Shadipur is situated on the bank of river Sind. This is also the confluence of Sind and Jhelum. From Shadipur there is a short cut to Wular Lake via Nuru Canal, which joins with the river on the 8th mile from here. At the sixth mile is Sumbal, a village, whence another small canal is dug up joining with the Manasbal Lake. Both at Shadipur and at Sumbal there are good camping grounds. And on your way to Wular if you intend to visit Ganderbal, Khirbhawani and Manasbal Lake enroute you must instruct the boatman likewise, otherwise he is quite likely to take a different route which may not be upto your choice.

Sopore

Is situated on both the banks of the Jhelum. It is an important centre of trade and commerce. Woolen fabrics are exported from here. In the adjacent country-side apples are grown in large

quantities and are exported to distant lands. There is a famous mosque Shah Hamdan and a dispensary.

Five miles beyond Sopore is Doabgah where rivers Jhelum and Pohru meet. The climate of this place is nice. Dredging is carried on here which has greatly assisted in preventing floods in Kashmir on one hand and reclamation of silt and using the land for agricultural purposes has resulted in bountiful crops on the other. There is a forest depot here.

LOLAB VALLEY

It lies to the north of Sopore about 50 miles off from it. The valley is regarded as one of the best in physical charms which is evidently enhanced by the green fields, meadows and lovely orchards. It is 16 miles long and 3 miles broad in area. The valley produces a variety of fruits in large quantities. The hens of the valley are very good. Ideal camping grounds will be found at Patalnag, Kambrial, Nagmarg and Drass—you may come here from any of the following places i. e, Sopore, Baramulla and Alsu. A tables is given here for your convenience.

| Stage | Miles | Stage | Miles | Stage | Miles |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|
| Sopore | ... | Baramulla | ... | Alsu | ... |
| Chogal | 13 | Pantsal | 7 | Nagmarg | 7 |
| Handwara | 3 | Kitardaji | 7 | Drass | 10 |
| Drugmulla | 14 | Khaipur | 12 | | |
| Kambrial | 8 | Patalnag | 10 | | |
| Drass | 10 | Kambrial | 8 | | |
| | | Drass | 10 | | |

SIND VALLEY

This is one of the biggest valleys in Kashmir and named after the river Sind. It is about 50 miles in length. You may go thither from Ganderbal. Before starting the visitors must make arrangements for provisions for the journey and this should be carried by coolies from Ganderbal. important places in the valley which are worth visiting are described here for information of the visitors.

Kangam

Is a charming place from the point of view of scenery. There is a Dakbungalow for your accommodation. The thickly sprinkled walnut trees afford an ideal place for camping. The snow view of Harmukh Parbat is simply grand beyond a word of praise. Within 15 miles from here is Gund.

Gund

Is a small village where there is a Rest-House and a Sarai. The altitude of Gund is 6500 feet above sea level. The path to Sonmarg via Revil and Koolan is extremely hilly and is a continuous zig-zag and going round about. But the beauteous scenes throughout the uphill path will not allow you a moment's thought over the physical hardship that entails the journey.

Sonmarg.

Is 19 miles from Gund. The climate of this place resembles that of Gulmarg in many respects. There is Dakbungalow and Post and Telegraph

offices here. It is a fine plateau full of natural beauty. Gagangair is only 5 miles from here whose altitude is 7200 feet above sea level. Visitors may go to lot of other places—high up to the height of 9000 feet or below, as they like. The path is not as easy as one would like to, rather arduous. But if one would take pains of the journey, vistas of beautiful landscape will be seen wherever they go.

Baltal

This is the last stage in the Sind valley. There is nicely furnished Dakbungalow. (Roads go from here to Leh, Ladakh and Drass)

FEROZPUR VALLEY

Is situated to the south of Gulmarg. Hundreds of hill springs coming down from the Apherwat ranges form a stream which is named after Ferozpur. A branch of it goes to Tangmarg.

Visitors go to the valley for fishing, and change of scene. High up the valley is a lake which is called Bilni Nag whence a road goes to Poonch Tahsil.

SULPHUR SPRING

✓ At Woin. -

There are many sulphur springs in Kashmir. Among these one is very noted which is situated in the vicinity of Woin and on the road to the famous pilgrimage of Khru. The water of this spring acts as a balm to those suffering from intestinal diseases. For this reason alone many people come here. Woin is not far from Srinagar and it lies a little before Pampur on a side road. The way has ups and downs. Vehicles are very carefully driven. There are good camping grounds where tents can be pitched. Milk, eggs, flour etc. are available in good quantities.

KHRU

Is 14 miles from Srinagar by road and can be reached on a car. It is a small village situated on a hill. The temple of Jwaladevi which is here can be approached through a staircase of nearly 200 steps. A big fair is annually held on the 14th day of Har which corresponds to a certain date in the month of July, when Kashmiri Pandits from all parts of the Valley assemble here. This place has become renowned in the valley from religious point of view being a pilgrimage of Hindus and of Kashmiri Pandits in particular. Just like Woin, Khru also possesses sulphur spring. There is a Dharamshala where free accommodation can be had.

HARMUKAT GUNGA

A stream flows from the Harmukh Mount and encircles a hill of the same name. This is Hart-nukata Ganga. It is regarded by the Kashmiri Pandits as a sacred river and they bring the ashes of the dead to deposit in its holy water. On the Baishakhi day each year which corresponds to the month of May, native people from all parts of Kashmir come here for ablution in the holy water. A great fair is held annually about this time. The road to Harmukat Ganga is hard to climb up but nevertheless the spirit of pilgrimage is greater and hardship is no consideration in its outlook.

A table is appended for better information about the journey :—

Harmukat Ganga

| Stage. | From Srinagar | Stage | From Harmukat |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Vichar Nag | 5 mile | Budh Sher | 2 miles |
| Nunner | 14 " | Narain Nag | 14 " |
| Kraink Nadi | 19 " | Kachhnambal | 24 " |
| Ram Radhan | 26 " | Nunner | 32 " |
| Bharat | 30 " | Vichar Nag | 41 " |
| Brahmsar | 35 " | Srinagar | 46 " |
| Harmukat Ganga | 42 " | | |

N. B.—Harmukat is also held by people as Gangabal Lake.

EASTERN KASHMIR

There are many other sights in Eastern Kashmir worth seeing. No visit to Kashmir shall be considered as complete unless one visits a number of places on this side of the valley. Most of the places lie on the main road between Srinagar and Pahalgam except a few which are situated on a side road which has gone off from the main road at Anantnag. On the main road lie Pandrethan, Pampur, Avantipur, Bijbahera, Anantnag, Matan and Pahalgam and on the side road lie Acchabal, Kukur-nag and Varynag. A little description of these will however, be indispensable.

Pandrethan

The temple of Pandrethan is nearly 4 miles from Srinagar. This was built during the reign of King Partha in the 10th Century and was dedicated to Mahadev by Meru, the Chief Minister of Partha. The temple stands in a tank about 100 yards from the river Jhelum and the base of it is 9 feet in length and 9 feet in width. The temple is worth seeing for the reason of its having a classically sculptured dome which resembles the grecian architecture.

The image of god Mohadeo is not visible inside the temple and other images carved in various parts of the temple are not distinguishable.

It is generally held that the old city of Srinagar was in the neighbourhood of this temple.

PAMPUR.

Is 8 miles from Srinagar. This is a small village situated on the banks of Jhelum where there is splendid camping grounds. Pampur has become famous for its saffron fields. Pampur's soil is peculiar, exceptionally red in appearance. The sight of which indicates a meaning hidden in the soil. One who knows will understand this quickly; in Pampur nothing grows except saffron. Nowhere in Asia except here saffron is grown and the saffron of Pampur is held by authoritative experts to be superior in quality to that of Italy and Morocco. Will one like to miss the saffron fields while he is on a visit to Kashmir?

The flowers of saffron bloom at the end of October when it is enchanting to be near it and the perfumed breeze passed through the saffron fields is simply pleasing. A notion is quite fondly held by the villagers of Pampur that they have never had any malady like suffering from headache and cold and people suffering from them can have relief by coming over to Pampur. The saffron flowers are plucked after they are sufficiently open. After this the stamens and styles which together constitute the saffron are carefully collected and then sold as saffron. Visitors intending to buy saffron should always buy it from a reliable dealer because there is possibility of his being deceived with adulterated one.

Avantipur

Is 16 miles from Srinagar by road and about 27 miles by water. This is an old town which will evoke interest in many. The town was planted by King Avanti who reigned in Kashmir during the years 854 to 883 A. D., and was the capital at that time. Recent archeological excavations have brought to light the historic temples built by the King as well as many other beautiful relics of Art of the old days.

Sangam

Is situated at the 25th mile from Srinagar. Sangam is remembered for its grand wooden bridge which was unfortunately burnt by a furious mob in July, 1931.

Bijbahera

Is a village close to Sangam and is situated on the bank of Jhelum. This is one of the biggest villages in Kashmir with old hindu temples sprinkled here and there. Over here one would have a view of the life of the hindus which is impressive.

Khannabal

Is 4 miles from Bijbahera. A little beyond this a side road goes off to the east. This road goes down to Jammu. In summer, the houseboats can come upto this by Jhelum, although at certain times the boats may go up a mile more and touch either Anantnag or Islamabad.

Khannabal claims a very good Rest House of His Highness the Maharaja of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

✓ ANANTNAG.

This is the second biggest town in Kashmir and 34 miles away from Srinagar by road. To musalmans Anantnag is known as Islamabad. The town is situated near a hill and there are numerous water springs here, hot water and otherwise. Besides certain sulphur springs in and near about the town, sulphur deposit has been found to remain more or less in the water of this place and this has added to the medicinal value of the water which alone helps in curing off many diseases of the people. There is a big fountain the Malakhnag the water of which flows into two tanks and in one of these tanks there is a temple of Mahadeo built in the centre of it and in another there is a statue of Mahadeo which is also standing at the centre of it. The water of both of these tanks flow through a miniature cascade which is pleasant to look at. There are a few Dharamsalas here where pilgrims to Amarnath usually halt and replenish with fresh energy. Anantnag is an important centre of trade. Wood carving, papier mache work, and embroidery are being carried on extensively and exported in large quantities throughout the world.

At Anantnag there is a Court, one Hospital and Post and Telegraph offices but considering the importance of the town, it has the notoriety of a dirty and filthy town also. During rains the mud in the road becomes so deep that half of the motor-car wheels go right into it. From Anantnag you may go to visit Achhabal, Kcokernag and Varynag.

ACHHABAL

At a distance of 6 miles by a good Kuchha road is this place. One may also come here from Varynag which is only 12 miles by road. At Anantnag tongas may be availed to cover the journey in an hour. On your way you come across one river, Arpat and on the whole the journey is pleasant throughout.

The importance of Achhabal has been enhanced for its Mogul Garden which is known by the name of the place (Achhabal Garden). This garden was ordered to be planted by the Moghul Emperor Sahjahan who, it is understood, took a great fancy for the garden. The lay-out of the garden has been very skilfully done with a set of streams of water gushing out at the base of a hill and running through channels right across the garden at an equal distance of each other. There are a lot of artificial fountains and shady chinar trees and a velvety lawn in the garden. The lawn has no equal anywhere in Kashmir. The fountains are made to run on Sundays only. Besides this, there is a Trout Culture Farm where trouts are cultured and exported from.

There is a Rest House where visitors can stay and beside this accomodation, lot of tents are available that can be taken on hire and the visitors may put up in their own tents which, as a rule, most of the visitors do. There is, however, ideal camping grounds at Achhabal.

The water of this place is quite good from the hygienic point of view—many visitors come here to get back their lost health. There is a Post Office and a small bazar where all kinds of necessary provisions can be had. At a distance of two miles from here is the State Military College and to this a dairy is attached. Visitors can easily arrange with the dairy to obtain good milk. Fruits at Achhabal are available in plenty.

KOOKER NAG

This is about 10 miles from Achhabal and 16 miles from Anantnag. A Kuccha road joins Anantnag and Kookernag. This road is fit for vehicular traffic except when the bridges are washed away or broken for some reason or other.

Kookernag has little historical importance but its wonderful climate has made itself renowned of all places in Kashmir. On account of its climate the pine woods, the air, the water—large number of visitors swarm here year in and year out. There is a huge natural spring and at a close proximity of the spring the visitors will find quite suitable grounds for pitching their tents.

At a distance of three miles from here, there is a Post Office at Khundru. There is no market or bazar here. Therefore the visitors must bring with them their provisions and everything that they require during stay, even they must come here with the last thing in their camp outfits, for in Kookernag there is

little possibility of getting anything that falls short in the requirement.

Kookernag can be visited from Varynag which is situated at a distance of six miles from Kookernag and half of the journey from the former is uphill and it presents beautiful scenery on the way. Visitors may either climb up on ponies or on foot as the case may be.



VARYNAG

Is 21 miles from Anantnag by a Pucca road and 16 miles by a Kuccha road. Varynag is a small village. The beautiful landscape which surrounds the journey to Varynag is simply charming—they shall meet a huge expanse of rich rice-fields lying throughout the way.

There is an unusually large perennial spring at the foot of the Banihal Pass in the Pir Panchal Range, this spring flows into a stonebuilt octagonal tank which was built by Emperor Jehangir in 1612 to collect the water of the spring from running away in all directions. The depth of the tank is held to be 10 feet only and the colour of the water is light indigo. There are fish of various species in the tank directly under the supervision of the Fisheries Department.

And in a few steps from the tank and just in front of it is a Garden rectangular in shape and where a water fall leaps on from a great height—This was attained artificially during the reign of Emperor Jehangir who, it is said, took great fancy to this

place and tried to beautify this place. While visiting Varynag they shall come across ruins of old Mogul buildings in the vicinity of the tank and garden and this testifies to the stories of old days. The Emperor Jehangir was so much enamoured of this place that he wished his body be cremated here after his demise. There are many fruit trees in the garden and all about this place, apples and a variety of other fruits. It is generally held by the people that the Varynag spring is the source of the river Jhelum but according to scientists and in their opinion it is not so. Another spring known as Vyatasta which is situated one mile off from Varynag is the source of the Jhelum, although the spring is about 8 inches in depth and a few feet in length and breadth. But however the spring is perennial.

There is a Post and Telegraph office and a Dak Bungalow. For free accomodation there are a few Dharamshalas also.

MATAN.

Is one of the most holy places in Kashmir. This is situated at a distance of 28 miles from Srinagar and 4 miles from Anantnag. From Anantnag visitors may come here on a tonga. Matan is the degenerated form of the word Martand through usage. Martand means in Sanskrit "Sun".

At Matan several springs have met and formed into a tank. The water is very clear and the tank is full of fish. There are a few Dharamshalas near it

which provide free accomodation to travellers and pilgrims alike. This whole area covering the Dharamshalas and market is called 'Bhawan' or 'Bawan' and as such the town has derived its name from it. At Matan the visitors will find a galaxy of Kashmiri Pandits who are going about with long books in hand—These Pandits are *porohits* or well-wisher. They take down the addresses of the Hindu pilgrims and help them in all possible way in their pilgrimage to Matan and Amarnath.

At a little distance from Bawan is a cave which is situated at a little height on the hill and which is supposed to be 200 feet long with an expansive mouth but narrow and narrower still as it extends further inside. It is held by people that there is a human skeleton inside the cave which is regarded as that of a sadhu who left his mortal remains in meditation.

Further from here is a small cave temple of Bhaumajo which is standing on the bank of river Lidar, which is less than a mile distant from Bawan. The temple is more than 10 feet square and is held to be the earliest temple of Kashmir. This was probably built at the end of 5th century B. C.

Matan's climate is very nice. The air and water is excellent. There is a very good Dak Bungalow and a small Post office.

Martand Temple.

About a mile from Matan and 5 miles from Anantnag is situated this famous temple, named after the Martand or Matan. This temple was built

by Ram Ditya, the hindu king, in the 5th century and modified (and repaired) by king Lalitaditya in the 8th century. The temple is located on the fine plateaux of Karewah which is irrigated by a canal—taken out from the Sheishnag stream near Pahalgam. This canal is a veritable demonstration of Engineering skill at almost each point of it and this is evident to a layman's eye as he observes it. But, however, of the temple—it is an imposing edifice of architectural finesse.

The height of the temple is at present nearly 60 feet. Although the roof has been removed the height must have originally approached 70 feet. There is quadrangle attached to this temple covering an area of 220 feet in length and 142 feet in breadth. Besides, the sanctuary and the choir of the temple are richly panelled and decorated. The beautiful arches, gigantic stone columns, elaborate carvings are no less worthy of interest. A view down the valley from this plateaux is excellent.

✓ PAHALGAM.

Is a renowned Summer station at an altitude of 7200 feet above sea-level. From Srinagar its distance is only 61 miles which can be covered in two hours in a car. At Pahalgam two hill streams, Lidar and Sheishnag meet and flow beyond it as one. The Lidar comes down through the Lidar Valley and the Kolahoi Glacier while the Sheishnag

comes down from the side of Amarnath. The current of the stream is very swift here.

Pahalgam is developing as the year rolls on. Visitors, mostly Indians, are coming in greater numbers every year and they are undoubtedly right in their selection because of convenience and facilities that Pahalgam provides. The temperature is not freezing cool as at Gulmarg. Its climate is invigorating and in the opinion of many, it is considered to be the best in the whole of Kashmir. The air and water is one of the best in Kashmir. The pine woods, meadows and grassy fields—all these together enhance the beauty of this place.

Regarding accomodation the visitors will find them welcoming a few good hotels as at Srinagar and Gulmarg, besides huts are available as at other places and not to speak of the good camping grounds which is a peculiar feature of Kashmiri landscape throughout the valley and this has been evident to the visitors more than once. For pitching the tents the visitors will have to pay a land tax to the Govt., in consideration of the land occupied by them. The Post and Telegraph offices at Pahalgam is of a seasonal character i. e., it functions only during the months in the year when the visitors come here. (At other times it remains closed).

From Pahalgam the visitors may go up to the following places which are no less interesting than many interesting hill stations. All these places are situated at a higher altitude than Pahalgam.

Baisuran.

Is three miles above Pahalgam. This is a fine plateau in the Pahalgam valley. Here the visitors shall find pine woods as at Gulmarg. However, the casual visitors shall find that mostly the European visitors have put up their tents all about the station in summer months.

Tanan.

This is another station three miles from Baisuran on the hill. The ascent to this place is difficult, it is a regular upward journey. Before leaving for this place, the visitors should either take a guide or go on a pony otherwise there is every likelihood of the hill path being confused and forgotten by the short-time visitor. There are two beautiful lakes situated at an altitude of 10,000 feet—and this is not far from here. The view of Kolahoi Glacier is charming from this place.

KOLAHOI GLACIER.

Is situated at a distance of 26 miles from Pahalgam. This place is sufficiently cold. All arrangements for ponies, provisions etc. must be made from Pahalgam. The whole trip can not be covered in less than four days atleast, it may take more time. On the way to Kolahoi, the visitors may visit the following places *enroute*.

Aru.

Is 7 miles from Pahalgam. The altitude is 9000 feet. The journey from Pahalgam presents beau-

tiful scenery, thickly studded with pine wood. Tents can be pitched here.

Lidarwat

Is 14 miles from Pahalgam-Lidarwat is a valley which requires some mention. The approach to this place from Aru is extremely painstaking. The ascent at a place has gone up to 11000 feet even.

✓ Lidar Valley

In the opinion of Europeans this valley is considered to be the best and most beautiful valley in Kashmir and resembles in almost every respect the scenes of Switzerland. The valley throughout its length and breadth is covered with green vegetation—this is unique besides the lovely meadows and snow-capped hills surrounding the valley, and the impression that is left on the minds of visitors is unspeakable. It is wonderful. The visitors will themselves know how true it is when they come to visit it.

Kolahoi

Is 10 miles further off Lidarwat right across the hill. The altitude of this place is 11200 feet above sea level. The altitude of the Glacier which is seen from here is 17500 feet. At Kolahoi it is all snow, snow here, snow there, snow everywhere. The view of the Glacier is very grand and magnificent.

LIDAR TO SIND VALLEY:

There are two routes. The first is easier and passable for pack transport. Arrangement for ponies, coolies and provisions should be made at Pahalgam. Camping ground, fuel, grass and water are available everywhere except no fuel at Khemsar.

Route A.

Pahalgam to Lidarwat 14 miles alt 9000 ft. Easy going.

Lidarwat to Sekwas 6 miles alt 11250 ft. Steep ascent.

Sekwas to Khemsar 7 miles alt 12000 feet.

Khemsar to Kulan (Sind Valley) 9 miles alt 7300 feet.

Kulan to Sonmarg 10 miles alt 8750 feet,

Route B.

Pahalgam to Lidarwat vide Route A.

Lidarwat to Kolahoi 10 miles alt 11200 feet.

Kolahoi to Sarbal (Sind Valley) 9 miles alt 9200 feet.

Sarbal to Sonmarg 6 miles. Easy going.



N. B. You can go to see the two glacierfed lakes of Kishan Sar and Vishan Sar situated at an altitude of 12500' from Sonmarg. Distance is about 16 miles. Also you can go to them from Gangabal (Harmukat) after a journey of about 27 miles in three Marches.

AMARNATH

✓ A Place of Interest And Worship

The cave of Sree Amarnath is situated at a distance of 28 miles from Pahalgam. This place is covered with perennial snow and surrounded by glaciers on all sides. It is a sight unrivalled in the whole world but not for the sight alone but for the sacredness of the place, Indians from all over the country congregate here once every year, for Sree Amarnath is considered by hindus of all schools of religious faith as one of the holiest of shrines and a place of pilgrimage. However, the journey to Amarnath is very difficult and full of dangers. Traveller may choose between going either on *Jhapans*, *dandis* or on ponies or on foot. But most of the pilgrims, particularly hindu ladies prefer to go on foot. Since 1928, when lot of pilgrims lost their lives due to cold and rain, some arrangements for the convenience of the travellers have been made by the Government. Now-a-days before the pilgrimage starts, the Govt. have arranged to construct temporary sheds at regular intervals on the road besides arrangements for moving hospital, police, provisions mart, free kitchen and tents for Sadhus have been provided for to assist the pilgrims and a new road from Chandanwari to Panchtarani has been constructed for the safety of the traveller. Hence the journey has become easier and safer from before. And therefore the pilgrims in ever greater number are coming annually to visit Amarnath. Before 1928 no such

improvements were effected for the benefit of the traveller. The previous route via Hatyara Talao was also a dreadful one in so far as that the road is very dangerous.

The visitors and the pilgrims as well to Amarnath start from Pahalgam. Before starting it would be wise to take a few utensils, heavy blankets and a bedding from Pahalgam and better still the pilgrims combine into small parties, which they usually do, to cut down expenses for tents, coolie, hire etc. Also in order to utilise time most economically, the visitors proceed to visit Matan, Anantnag etc. before arriving at Pahalgam.

Pahalgam to Chandanwari

The road ascends gradually till you reach Chandanari which is 95000 feet above sea level. First four miles of this road presents beautiful scenery. The Sheisnag stream and the hills together with the surrounding countryside make a deeper impression upon you as you move on. At Chandanwari a bridge thickly covered with snow is crossed by the traveller.

Chandanwari to Wayujan

The visitors arrive at Wayujan on the 9th mile from Chandanwari via Sheisnag lake. The first mile of the journey is ascending then it is descending for a while, then again it rises into a very difficult ascent till the visitors reach "Pissu Ghati". And this is very aptly used because here the visitors are equally worried as often as we do from fleas

at any time. It is owing to an annoying sensation that the travellers feel in climbing up on their march to Amarnath that this portion of the ascent is called "Pissu Ghati". However, on the top of this is a little level ground called Zojpal and here the visitors will witness an indescribable beauty of the landscape on all sides, the silvery hill streams, grassy lands etc.

There is a path to Sonasar lake from Zojpal and it is not far from here. The lake is simply beautiful.

At an altitude of 10,000 feet is the Seishnag lake—which is situated after $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Chandanwari and is surrounded by hills on all fours and the colour of the water is strikingly peculiar. Orthodox hindus and sadhus bathe in this lake and perform religious rites. Not far from here is Wayujan and is nevertheless true to its name. In fact this name has been ascribed to Wayujan for very strong wind that is felt here. Sometimes the velocity of the wind grows so strong that tents are too often uprooted in its pressure.

Wayujan To Panchtarani

Panchtarani is situated on the 8th mile from Wayujan. Although the journey rises to 14,000 feet and above, the visitors' eyes will constantly meet with meadows and flowers of a variety of colours and shapes. The presence of these flowers in the midst of snow peaks of all sizes enhance the beauty verging on celestialness which can be more easily perceived than described. At length the tourists arrive at Panchtarani which has derived its



name from the fact that five rivers meet here, join together and flow on as Ramganga before she joins ultimately with Sind.

Panchatarani To Sree Amarnath

The visitors leave Panchtarani early in the morning and arrive at Sree Amarnath in two hours. During the journey the traveller will have to walk over the glaciers for sometime. The natural phenomena surrounding the journey cannot be properly described. It is something and so terribly different that hardly a parallel can be drawn, an explanation offered—as one sees it he knows it for himself more than he can describe it.

Sree Amarnath.

At Amarnath there is only ice, ice here, ice there, ice everywhere. There is no habitation or plantation within sight from here. In the Amarnath Cave, the citadel of Mahadeo, there is an icicle on which you see the images of Mahadeo, Parbati and Ganesh and the images grow bigger during time of pilgrimage from full moon to new moon in the month of Sravan and they decrease with the waning of the moon. The cave itself is approximately 50 feet in length, 55 in breadth and 45 in the centre.

However, the phenomenon of images, the visit of pigeons and the cave itself hover in the minds of the people and generally leave them puzzled. Of course this is an aftermath, the rapturous feeling with which every visitor looks at it and looks at the sur-

rounding country and mighty Himalayas standing in perpetual benediction to all mankind ; there never occurs to anyone any dispute for credences for what has been alleged to be true. One word may be enough here i. e., one who knows the Hindu mind will at once appreciate that it is quite usual.

Along with the train of Hindu pilgrims many Europeans and Americans have been seen going to this place. The pilgrims bathe in the Amarganga which is believed to have come down from the head of Mahadeo, after bathing they go for *darshan* of the Mahadeo and offer coins, ornaments, clothes etc to the dieties. In three-four hours, however, they finish everything and pack off to return.

Return.

The same route is followed as has been described already except the one via Astanmarg and Hatyara Talao. This route is full of dangers ; yet adventurous people have never stopped journeying on this road. Since 1928 when lot of pilgrims lost their lives on this road owing to heavy rains which fell that year, the Govt. of Kashmir & Jammu has constructed another better road, via Wayujan and the ordinary folk usually take this safer road from that time on

From Panchtarani to Astanmarg is $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles. For the first two miles the usual road is followed and then a road turns to the right which goes via Hatyara-Talao and at $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Panchtarani is this Hatyara Talao.. Here the road is very slippery, therefore, if you do not take utmost care there is every possibility

of your having a slip from life. And although this road is full of dangers, it is nevertheless full of beauty, of pleasant meadows, murmuring brooks, picturesque hill views etc. At Hatyara-Talao there is a pond of water of the same name which appears like a lake and the view of it is simply charming.

From Astammarg, Chandanwari is 7 miles. The journey is very pleasant. The scenes are very grand. After crossing ascent and descent several times, you reach Chandanwari. From here, the rest of the route upto Pahalgam has already been described.

The pilgrims usually reach Pahalgam the third day and some, of course, reach the second day.

A Synopsis of Amarnath Pilgrimage.

The Amarnath pilgrimage session begins from the Purnamashi day of Sravan each year and this corresponds in English to the 1st week of Aug. The sadhus and intending pilgrims assemble at Srinagar and on the purnima day begins the celebration at the Dashnami Akhara. For full 3 days from Purnima the assembly spend in Kirtan, religious lectures, devotional songs and in a variety of ceremonies at Dashnami Akhara and on the 4th day the whole assembly start for Amarnath *enroute* Anantnag and Matan until finally it arrives at Pahalgam on 10th full moonday. They take rest for one day and start on 12th full-moon day for Chandanwari. Next they reach Wayujan on 13th & on 14th Panchtarani. On 15th they go to Amarnath Cave for *darshan* (visit) in the morning and come back. This is the programme of the pilgrimage in brief.

ON THE WAY TO KASHMIR

Murree.

Murree is a lovely hill station situated at an altitude of over 6,500 above sea-level. All comforts and the amenities of a modern municipal town are available here. The fact of its being the Summer Headquarters of the Northern command of the British Army has helped to the growth of the town as a nicely planned out and spic and span modern town.

Good roads are built, water-supply has been facilitated, lovely parks and play grounds are maintained, a market with latest sanitary arrangement has been constructed, up-to-date shops, are opened.

In fact the town is not in any way inferior to the modern summer hill-stations like Darjeeling, Mussorie, Simla and Nainital. The town is full of pine and deodar trees which have grown in the soil. The weather is simply exhilarating and the climate is wonderfully bracing. Visitors of all temperaments will have little to complain about Murree.

The air is cold and refreshing. Water is highly digestive. This has been experienced by thousands of people coming over here. Hence, Murree, during recent years, has become a healthy summer resort and people have been coming over here in thousands to recover their lost health.

There are two places at Murree worth seeing, one is Pindi Point and another is Kashmir Point. The Pindi point' is so called because from here the

visitors will see the Rawalpindi plains and from the Kashmir point they will likewise have a view of Kashmir. Near the Kashmir point the Pandoo Park is situated—this is an excellent park. It is said that the pandavas of the Mahabharat Epic visited this place. However, the park is ideal for the purposes of picnic parties.

There are a number of hotels, restaurants, bungalows and houses for the use of the visitors. An up-to-date accomodation can be had at Hotel Cecil and View Worth. In two hours from Rawalpindi either in a car or in an omnibus you may reach Murree.

While going Kashmir through Rawalpindi route, it will be recommended not to miss Murree. Provided you can spare time really you will. you should go first to Murree, stay there for a few days and then proceed to Kashmir. In case, you can not do this you may pay a 'flying visit' to Murree by an arrangement with the driver to do so. He will not hesitate if you are in a party or so.

The distance from Rawalpindi to Murree is 40 miles. Consult the Jammu Route to know nature of journey, stages that lie in the way and other information.

N. B.—There is one Arya Samaj Mandir where free accomodation can be had for a few days but the accomodation is limited. By bus the fare from Rawalpindi to Murree is not more than Rs. 2 for a seat, by car it is only Rs. 4 or 5/ per seat.

KASHMIR.

In the eyes of Europeans.

No part of India—and it may be rightly said of all Asia—is invested with such a romantic interest for the Europeans as is Kashmir. They see this land through the glamour of “Lala Rookh” and is disposed to speak of it that it is the paradise on earth.

For the exquisite beauty of her sceneries, the glorious colouring and profusion of her flowers, the buoyancy of atmosphere and the general joviality of her people and surroundings—She is considered unique in all respects in the East by the Europeans and Americans.

From the point of Sports, the State of Jammu and Kashmir is a good playground in Northern India between the months of April and November year in and year out, and it is fact that all sorts of outdoor sports, Cricket, Tennis, Polo, Golf are widely played. The presence of a number of rivers and lakes provide good sport for anglers. An enormous species of big games constitute a tremendous sport for hunters ; and the beauty of the whole thing is this that the visitors have not to go very far from the Capital city Srinagar for the sport.

Bears are found in all parts of Kashmir, the black type being common in the Lolab, Sind, and Lidar Valleys, while those of the red variety are met with on the slopes of mountains. Leopards may be bagged throughout the whole of the valley ;

barasingha inhabits Pir Punjal, near Wular lake and in the neighbourhood of Kistwar ; Ibex and Himalyan Chamois offer good sport ; wild goat, with horns reaching to 50 inches in length, is plentiful on the Pir Punjal ; the wild pig provides Sport in the eastern portion of the Valley ; and wolves, foxes, jackals and other small game are frequently seen.

Game birds, including pheasants, partridges, quail, snipe, wood-cock, and funtail are obtainable almost every where.

A very large number of water-fowls are found in Kashmir. Mute-swan, grey lag goose, white fronted goose, fantail shoveller, ducks, scaup, grebes dabchicks etc. are some examples.

Lakes and rivers which are a special feature in Kashmir provide great field for fishing. There is a large number of varieties and species of fishes both of indigenous and imported. Important are :—

1. Rupput—one of handsomest indigenous Kashmir fish.
2. Snow-trout—one of the best known to Europeans.
3. Brown trout—one of the best imported fish,
4. Mahseer—one of the best.

Besides these, there are many others like Chiroo, Chush, Ehoct, Anyur, and Tilgrum.



KASHMIR

Fruits & Vegetables.

Kashmir is well known for her fruits and green vegetables which are produced in abundance. In no land situated so high in altitude in the world is such a variety of fruits grown or green vegetables produced. Apart from the uniqueness of Kashmir in other respects, she is unique in this respect also.

From the table which is appended for information, the visitors will surely appreciate that the remark about its uniqueness is true. Fresh fruits and vegetables act as a great agency of body builders and blood purifiers. Therefore, it is not scenery alone that draws into this land of eternal beauty the visitors from lands far and wide. A variety of pears, the local for which is Baggu Gosha is considered to be one of the best fruits of the land. This fruit is very delicate and sweet. Its flavour is remarkable. This variety is not produced anywhere in India, not even in Asia. Apples are the predominating fruit of Kashmir. There are more than 100 variety of apples. Grapes are produced in abundance but they are more suitable for wine than for table purposes. The wine is not exported from Kashmir under the orders of the Govt.

Fruits.

When
available.

Fruits.

May.

Cherries, Strawberries,
Mulberries.

June.

Appricots, Green al-
monds.

FRUITS

| When available | Fr |
|----------------|---|
| July. | Appricots, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apples (early), Green almonds. |
| Aug. | Pears, Peaches, Apples, Grapes (wine and table), Pomegranates, Green walnuts and Dry almonds. |
| Sept. | Pears, Apples, Grapes, Pomegranates. |
| Oct. | Pears, Apples, Chestnuts. |
| Nov. | Apples and Pears. |

Vegetables.

The important vegetables of cold climates, of Europe and other places are grown here in plenty. Like other hill stations vegetables are not brought from the plains, and sold at high prices while they are already stale. In Kashmir at all times of the season quite fresh vegetables can be had and in condition that not a bit of their food value has been impaired.

Following is A List of important Vegetables.

| When available. | Vegetables. | |
|------------------|-------------|---------|
| May to November. | Artichoke | Tomato |
| | Boat | Melons |
| | Brinjal | Beans |
| | Cabbage | Bhindi |
| | Knol-kohl | Carrot |
| | Leek | Celery |
| | Onion | Lettuce |
| | Parsnip | Peas |
| | Turnip | Rhubarb |
| | Asparagus | Potato |
| | Bhaji | Etc. |
| | Karam | Etc. |
| | Ostahak | Etc. |
| | Radish | |
| | Spinach | |

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT KASHMIR

When to Visit Kashmir

You may visit anytime between April and October : Kashmir is always charming it does not matter when you go. If you possibly can afford more money and time on the trip, it is better you go in April or May and stay there till November after the saffron bloom but those who are going for a shorter stay it would be advisable to visit her in the early part of autumn.

What Road to Take

There are two motorable roads from British India but the best and convenient route is from Rawalpindi ; while Jammu route presents better hill scenery. Of course, the visitor may go by the former route and come back by the latter and vice versa. If you want to take a water route, go through Jhelum and Wular lake from Buramulla—this journey is very pleasant and it takes about 2—3 days to reach Srinagar and besides you will be able to visit Sopore, Manasbal lake, Ganderbal and Khirbhawani *enroute*. And if you choose, you may go on foot as well but this course is better not to be pursued if you have no previous experience of hill journey.

What is indispensable to the Traveller

Carry both summer and winter clothings. If you want to stay at places like Gulmarg, carry heavy bedding but in any case carry nothing more than essential things only. Apart from this, you need to take the permission from the Secretary of state to the

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir if you carry guns and ammunitions with you.

Where to Stop

Most of the people prefer to stay in houseboats or under canvas. A typical house boat contains 3 to 5 rooms and a couple of bath rooms. There is a cook boat and a shikara attached to every houseboat and the monthly rent of the whole suite varies from Rs. 100 to Rs. 160 per month according to the size and condition of the boats. Tents can be hired at cheap rates and their charges vary also according to the sizes. The charges of a hotel also vary much according to the kind of the hotel and condition of rooms taken. However, the charges of rooms in a hotel can vary from Re 1 to Rs. 3 per day according to their condition and arrangement.

Transport Facility

Motor Car or bus are the principal means of transport facilities to the Happy valley of Kashmir. The motors can go to almost all the important places in the valley. As a rule, bus is cheaper than a car. Most people of average means travel by bus.

Duration of Journey

Under normal conditions and provided no stoppages are made *enroute*, a car can reach Srinagar in a single day and a bus in a day and a half. Most of the people prefer to break the journey and stop at one of the wayside dak bungalows.

Luggage

About 2 maunds of light kit is allowed free of charge with each car, and 20 seers with every seat by bus. Extra luggage is despatched by a lorry and charged for @ Rs. 5/8 per maund in the Rawalpindi route and Rs. 4/8 per md, in the Jammu route.

Fares

The rates of a car carrying 3 or 4 persons from Rawalpindi or Jammu to Srinagar vary from Rs. 80 to Rs. 125. The charge for a single seat, when available, is from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 but on the Jammu route, single seats are not generally booked. The charge for a single seat in a bus varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12. Fluctuations are always liable due to traffic offering.

Transport Companies

Transport Companies :—There is a large number of transport companies at Rawalpindi and Jammu. Messers, Radhakishen & Sons, are the agents of North Western Railways,

Through luggage to Srinagar or Gulmarg can be booked through the agents of Motor companies.

Dak Bungalows

There is a *Khansama* at each dak bungalow. Lodging and board can be obtained without any difficulty. For dak bungalows that are on the way, see the tables of routes.

Agents

There are many agents through whom bungalows, houses, huts, house boats etc, can be arranged and booked. Your most reliable informant is the "Director Visitors Bureau (the state official in charge of the visitors quarters) Srinagar",

Enquiries

You may enquire of the 'Director, Visitors' Bureau, Srinagar whenever you want to know more details about transport facilities, coolies, tongas etc.

To tourists having their cars.

You must enquire of the state authorities the condition of the bridges before you start for Kashmir. What sometimes, happens is that bridge or bridges remain washed or in a dangerous condition owing to flood or some other causes. This recommendation will save you lot of unnecessary troubles that may await you on the journey.

Complete Kashmir Visit 50 Days Tour.

To make your visit to Kashmir complete as far as possible following trips are to be made in addition to the above 9 trips. Period that each trip will undertake is also given for information. Add extra days if you want to make extra stoppages at any place.

Tenth Trip :—Visit Lolab Valley. Start from Sopore. Reach Sopore from Baramulla. Duration of trip about a week.

Eleventh Trip :—Visit Wular Lake. Start from Srinagar. Time taken in the trip is about 4 days.

Twelveth Trip :—Visit Lidar Valley and Kolahoi Glacier from Pahalgam. Time taken about 5 days.

Thirteenth Trip :—Visit Amarnathji in an ice-land region. Start from Pahalgam. Time taken about 5 days.

Fourteenth Trip :—Visit Sind Valley and Sonmarg Start from Ganderbal. Time taken about a week.

Fifteenth Trip :—Around Gulmarg --Visit Alpathera Apparwat, Ferozpur Nullah. Time taken about 3 days.

Four days are left at your disposal to visit any place or to make extra stoppages at the mentioned places which depends upon your choice.

N. B.— If you want to visit any more places of interest, see under their respective head. All trips from 10-15 are to be carried on foot or pony except Wular Lake where you can go either by bus or river.

HOW MUCH WILL COST IN A VISIT TO KASHMIR

No hard and fast rule can be cited as to the actual cost that will incur in the visit because expenses chiefly vary due to one's standard of living. Also they vary due to three things—the place whence you start, duration of visit in Kashmir and the number of places that you want to visit in Kashmir. However I have taken up this task for anxious enquirers as well as for those persons who possess limited means. I am sure that all persons, well-to do and otherwise or of limited means will equally be benefitted by under taking such a proposition as this. This may be known to you that actual living in Kashmir is not expensive.

To ascertain 'how much will cost in a visit to Kashmir' the expenses incurred under the heads of railway, motor, *tonga*, lodging, board and other miscellaneous items are taken into consideration. You can yourself find out how much the visit will cost after a careful perusal of the fares and rates dealt with exhaustively in the book.

The approximate amount with which Kashmir can be easily visited is Rs. 100 when journey is commenced from Delhi and Rs. 125 when started from Calcutta or Bombay.

People of average means can thoroughly visit Kashmir with Rs. 150 when started from Delhi and Rs. 200 when started from Bombay or Calcutta. In this amount, an allowance of Rs. 25 has been added for

purchases of Kashmir novelties and the railway journey is travelled in an inter class instead of 3rd class.

If you want to travel in any other classes add extra to the sum.

The following calculated cost will confirm the above facts about the expenses in a visit to Kashmir.

Calculated Cost For Kashmir Visit.

| | Rs. | Rs. |
|--|-------------|---------|
| Transportation fares to reach Srinagar & Back by a bus. ... | 18 | to 24 |
| To visit places of interest in the Happy Valley of Kashmir by a bus ; Srinagar as the starting point ... | 7 | to 9/8 |
| To visit places of interest through tonga | 4/9 | to 6/8 |
| To visit places of interest through Shikara. ... | 5/7 | to 7/10 |
| To visit around Gulmarg—(ponies & coolies charges) ... | 2/ | to 3/ |
| Board @ Re. 1 to 1.8 Per Day for 20 days (in a visit of 15 days to Kashmir) | 20 | to 30 |
| Lodging @ Re 1 Per day for 10 days Rest days in journey ... | 10 | to 15 |
| Cooly charges on your journey to and from—Rawalpindi or Jammu... | 3 | to 4/6 |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 70/ to 100/ | |
| Average Rs. 85. | | |

How much will cost from your Place ?

Enquire the Local Booking Office for the railway fare of the journey whence you want to start upto Rawalpindi or Jammu. Add that amount to the Calculated Figure. The Total is the actual amount of money with which you can visit Kashmir. This is the simplest method to find out expenses of Kashmir Visit from any part of India, following will serve an example as well as be convenient to know actual amounts for a visit to Kashmir from Big Cities of India :—

| | From Delhi | From Calcutta |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| 2nd. „ | $85 + 49/6 = 134/6$ | $85 + 120/5 = 205/5$ |
| Int. „ | $85 + 20/12 = 105/12$ | $85 + 60/1 = 145/1$ |
| 3rd. Class. | $85 + 13/6 = 98/6$ | $85 + 32/13 = 117/13$ |
| | From Bombay. | From Madras. |
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| 2nd. „ | $85 + 137/10 = 222/10$ | $85 + 194/12 = 279/12$ |
| Int. „ | $85 + 69/8 = 154/8$ | $85 + 110/8 = 195/8$ |
| 3rd. Class. | $85 + 42/8 = 127/8$ | $85 + 59/10 = 184/10$ |

What you can do In the Above Amounts.

You can visit all the important places of interest in the Happy Valley of Kashmir in the quoted amounts. You should refer to the chapter on "Kashmir Visit in fifteen days" to know the names of interesting places as arranged in Nine Trips. Add extra to the sum for any other place you want to visit or to make extra purchases.

N. B.—Railway fares are current. They are doubled in the above table and hence covers both the journey going and back.

APPENDIX.

on

FACTS AND FIGURES

About Expenses in Kashmir

All fares and rates are given as correct and practicable as possible. Traffic offering is the main cause which brings about variations in them. On normal conditions they fluctuate within the range of fluctuation.

To Reach Srinagar

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| By an omnibus per seat. | ... | ... | Rs. | 9 to 12 |
| By car per seat | ... | ... | " | 20 to 40 |

House Boats

Per mension.

| | | |
|--|-----|------------|
| With four rooms and more, two bath rooms, a cook boat, a Shikara, 2-3 Crew and a Chaukidar | Rs. | 160 to 125 |
| With three rooms and rest details as above | " | 110 to 90 |
| Doonga boats with 4 rooms, rest details as above | " | 140 to 100 |
| Doonga boats with 3 rooms. " " " " | " | 90 to 75 |

There occurs a wide variation in their charges. Ask the Agents and Dealers. Also see page 89.

Bus Rates—Per Head—Single Journey

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|------------------|
| Srinagar to Islamabad | ... | ... | Rs. /12/- to 1/- |
| Srinagar to Matan | ... | ... | Rs. 1/- to 1¼ |
| Srinagar to Pahalgam | ... | ... | 1/8 to 2/- |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|----------------|
| Srinagar to Gulmarg | ... | ... | Rs. 1/- to 1/8 |
| Srinagar to Ganderbal | ... | ... | -/12/- to 1/4 |
| Srinagar to Khirbhawani | ... | ... | 1/- to 1/4 |
| Islamabad to Pahalgam | ... | ... | 1/- to 1/4 |
| Matan to Pahalgam | ... | ... | -/12/- to 1/- |

Tonga Rates—For 3 persons—Going and Back.

| | | |
|--|-----|--------------|
| Srinagar to Mogul Gardens & Harwan | ... | Rs. 3 to 4/8 |
| Srinagar to Jama Masjid | ... | 1/4 to 1/8 |
| Srinagar to Gupkar or Cantonment | ... | -/12/- to 1/ |
| Srinagar to Technical Institute and Silk factory | ... | 1/4 to 1/12 |
| Srinagar to Pampur | ... | 2/- to 3/8 |
| Anantnag to Varnag | ... | 4/8 to 5/8 |
| Anantnag to Achhabal | ... | 1/- to 1/8 |

Hire of Shikara by trips Going & Back.

Accommodating about 4 persons

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Srinagar to Mogul Gardens through Dal lake | Rs. 2/8 to 3/8 |
| Srinagar to Dal lake only | 1/8 to 2/- |
| Srinagar to Chhatabal weir and 7 bridges | 1/- to 1/8 |
| Srinagar to Maharaj Gunj (4th Bridge) | -/6/- to -/10/- |

Hire of Doonga Boat By Distance

(Accommodating about 6-8 persons)

| | | |
|---|-----|---------------|
| Srinagar to Baramulla | ... | Rs. 3 to 4/- |
| Srinagar to Islamabad | ... | Rs. 4 to 5/12 |
| Srinagar to Awantipur | ... | Rs. 2 to 3/- |
| Srinagar to Ganderbal & Back | ... | Rs. 2 to 3/- |
| Srinagar to Wular direct | ... | Rs. 7 to 10/- |
| Srinagar to Wular & Back | ... | Rs. 10 to 12 |
| Srinagar to Wular through Ganderbal, Manasbal etc | ... | Rs. 15 to 20 |

Transport Rates

I. Lidar Valley

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-----------------|
| Riding Pony | ... | Re. 1 per stage |
| Pack Pony | ... | -/12/- " " |

II Pahalgam to Amar Nathji or Kolahoi

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|---------|-----------|
| Riding Pony | ... | ... | Rs. 1/4 | per stage |
| Pack Pony | ... | ... | Re. 1/- | " " |

III. To Gangabal

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|--------|-----------|
| Riding Pony | ... | ... | 1/8/- | per stage |
| Pack Pony | ... | ... | 1/4/- | " " |
| Cooly | ... | ... | -/10/- | " " |
| Dandy Cooly | ... | ... | -/12/- | " " |

IV. Sind Valley

| | | Pony | Cooly |
|-----------------------|-----|---------|-------|
| Srinagar to Ganderbal | ... | 14 as | 7 as |
| Ganderbal to Kangan | ... | 11 as | 6 as |
| Kangan to Gund | ... | 14 as | 7 as |
| Gund to Sonmarg | ... | Re. 1/- | 10 as |
| Sonmarg to Baltal | ... | 9 as | 5 as |

V. General Rates in Kashmir

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----------|
| Riding Pony | ... | ... | 1-2-0 | per stage |
| Pack Pony | ... | ... | 0-14-0 | " " |
| Cooly | ... | ... | 0-7-0 | " " |
| Dandy Cooly | ... | ... | 0-9-0 | " " |
| Manji or mower of the boat | ... | ... | 1-0-0 | per day |

VI. Around Gulmarg

| | | Pony | Cooly |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----------------|--------------|
| Tangmarg to Gulmarg or Back | ... | -/8/- to -/12/- | -/4/- -/6/- |
| Gulmarg to Khillenmarg & Back | ... | 1/- | -/6/- -/8/- |
| Gulmarg to Alpatra & Back | ... | 2/- | -/8/- -/10/- |
| Gulmarg per day (8 hours) | ... | 1/- | -/7/- |
| Gulmarg for less than 2 hours | ... | -/4/- | -/3/- |
| Out of Gulmarg per stage | ... | 1/- | -/6/- |
| Gulmarg to Apparwat & Back | ... | 2/- | ... |
| Gulmarg to Ferozpur Nullah | ... | 1/8 | ... |

Sporting Fees in Kashmir

For trout fishing, Rs. 5 per day, Rs. 25 per week and Rs. 50 for the season (April to September)

For Big & Small games from 15th March to 15th Sept. Rs. 125.

For fuller details ask the Game Preservation department.

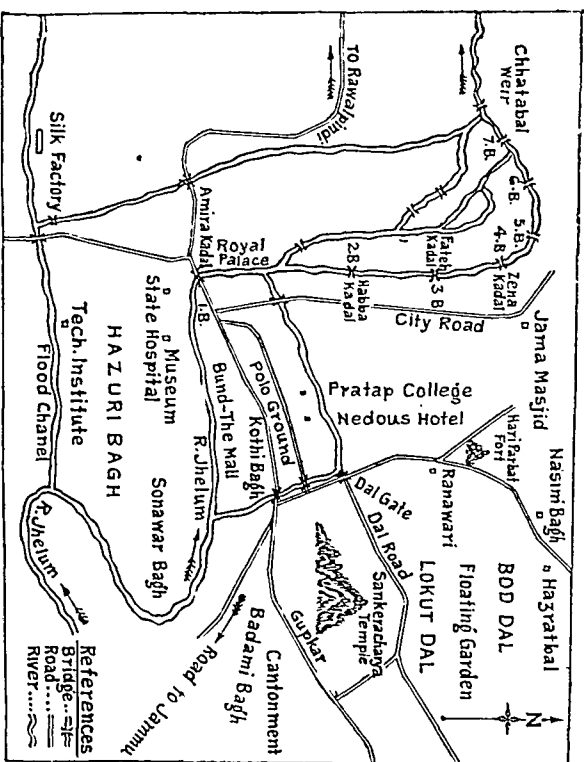
Scale of Monthly Wages for Servants

| | Good | Ordinary | Fair |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Cooks | Rs. 40 | Rs. 30 | Rs. 25 |
| Bearer Khit | Rs. 30 | Rs. 25 | Rs. 20 |
| Servant for general purpose | Rs. 20 | Rs. 15 | Rs. 10 |
| Houseboat Mowers | ... | Rs. 10 | Rs. 12 |

Enquire the Director, Visitors Bureau, Srinagar, for fees of Camping Grounds in Kashmir.

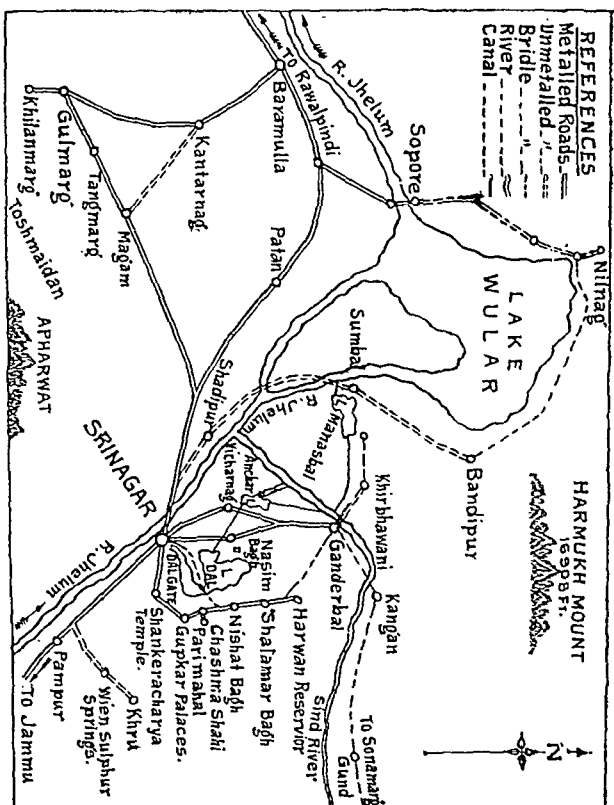
Enquire the Divisional Engineer, Hydraulic Survey Division near Motor Mail Office for fees of mooring houseboats in Kashmir.

Srinagar Town Map.

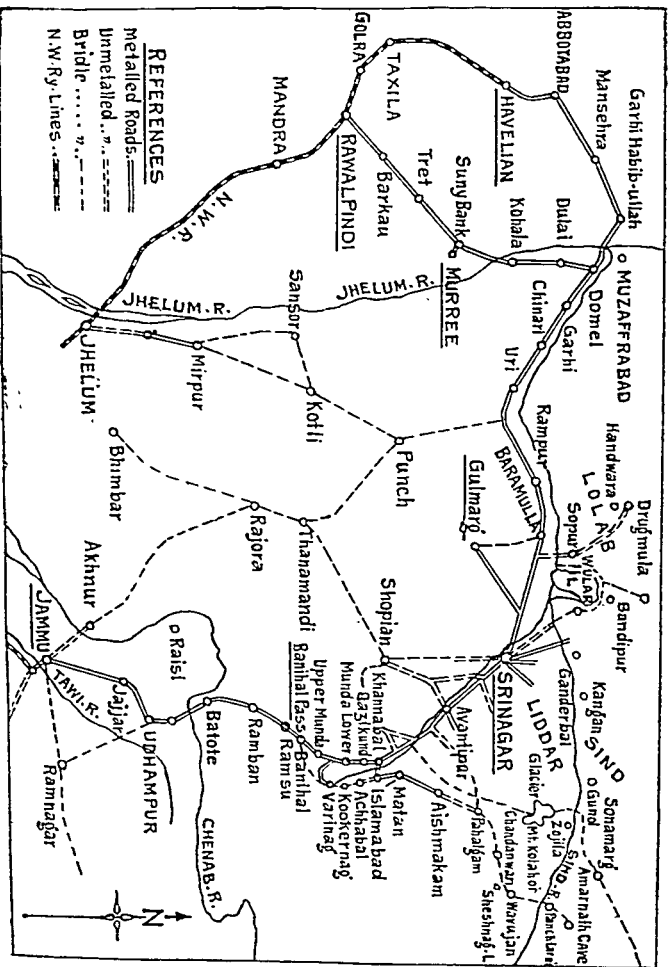


Scale 1" = 1 mile

Kashmir Valley Map.



Kashmir Route Map.



Scale 1' = 32 miles

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